

## **A Personal Life-Changing Decision**

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One of the many devotions I have used in Bible studies and home groups is entitled “Minimizing Regrets and Maximizing Our Faith.” In detailing my statements for the congregants and recipients listening to the devotion, I try to give the reasons why it would behoove us to minimize those regrets in life by doing something about “the regret” while there is time. Of course, there have been decisions in our lives where we have failed to carry out our good intentions. Procrastinating and being too late to remove a regret due to a death or someone changing addresses (moving to another state) whereby it is practically impossible to carry out our intended good deed does not give us any sense of peace or closure. I always tell the class or audience listening to my speech or lesson, I am certainly guilty of procrastination and I do have regrets in my life. However, I have tried and still am trying to reduce those regrets to a minimum. I encourage them to do likewise.

One personal decision I (we) made at a very early stage of my wife and I’s marriage haunted us for many years; the decision of “not having more than two children.” Our first child, a beautiful girl, came into our lives fourteen months after our wedding. Our second one (also a beautiful blond haired little girl) came exactly two years later. After the second little bundle of joy was born, our physician regrettably told us there was a problem with our blood and he seriously recommended we not have any more children. Sherry had RH negative blood type; mine was RH positive. After some counsel with ourselves and other family members, we did not want to take the chance on getting pregnant for the third time. Being young, we depended on wise counsel in making such an important decision of which would affect our lives for the rest of our time on planet earth. We did pray about it...but we prayed for the wrong thing. We just said, “The wise doctor and our older family members certainly know what might be best” and we arrived to the conclusion; two beautiful children have entered our lives and we feel blessed and honored to be their parents. In other words, “Why worry about it when we have two healthy, wonderful children who have made our dreams come true?” Two years ago last November we lost our Tami (first daughter) due to a very short battle with cancer.

We have two grandchildren each from Tami and Melanie. We now are great grandparents of two healthy boys. We consider ourselves tremendously blessed and certainly delighted with these great additions to our family.

If the reader of this document might not be familiar with the RH blood factor, it probably is because the problem has been reduced to a minimum through the years of medical breakthroughs in dealing with the RH blood factor

dilemma. Just a few years after our doctor told us of the danger of having the 3<sup>rd</sup> child, medical technology removed the danger of the RH factor with a simple vaccine during the birth of the 1<sup>st</sup> child. We knew about the break-through, but our fears of the unknown kept us from having more children.

We cannot change or go back in time to correct the decision we made when we had the energy and stamina to parent the additional children we had longed for during the prime of life. We never expected nor dwelled on having a great big bundle of our joy of life stripped from us. However, we have realized over time we can maximize our faith and live for the Lord no matter what situation or trial we have to face in life.

If it were possible to go back in time to the obviously major decision in our lives and say, "Lord, we will let you be the One to counsel us on such a major decision," I personally think the same decision and outcome would have been revealed to us. Why? We stand by the Word of God and stand on His promises of assurance and Him being by our side during the tough times of life. God stated to the Israelites, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11: as well as what Paul said in Romans 8:28, "And we know **all things** work together for good to those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." We gentiles can rely on those same promises spoken to His chosen people. We believe it and we stand firmly and steadfast in God's comforting words.

For the readers of this statement, it is my opinion that God will reveal to us the choices we must make through life. Whether we take heed and go with His flow of His always looking out for what is best for His children, or make our own choices based on our feelings, our knowledge, and our instincts, we must live with them and the consequences of those choices. Acknowledging God's input, yielding to His gentle voice in times of prayer, and acting according His precepts will always be for our best in the end.

With that, my wife and I continue to do our best trying to minimize our regrets...and at the same time, maximizing our faith until we cross the finish line of our time on planet earth.