

Shoot Fire!

Tenderly, I reached out to help his frail body lift from the confines of his bed. Ever so slowly this “saintly” old gentleman, my grandfather, moved to be changed of his wet clothing.

The frustration of a series of strokes, resulting in the loss of most speech and movement, would long have taken their toll on most folks. But not him! Awkwardly, yet confidently, he was raised to his feet with my help. Leaning over gently he gives “sugar” to his wife of over 50 years.

My own emotions running deep and my clumsiness in trying to care for a grown man as a babe are quickly sensed by his loving eyes. He notices my frustration and in a way as only he could, he shook his head and with two struggled words expressed both our feelings . . . “*shoot fire!*” It was an expression I had not heard him say in years, yet I knew it well. Unable to put any sentences together and hardly speaking any intelligible utterance, he had found deep within him the ability to express both our frustrations.

Sometimes we face difficulties in life beyond our control and the frustrations we experience can tear us down . . . if we let them. The key to overcoming them is trust. Something my grandfather had learned long ago and something I needed to reaffirm in my own soul. Even though both he and grandmother have been gone many years, I smile even now as I think of how my grandfather lived out the promises of a gracious and living God. That same God who assured him that “*all things work together for good, especially to those who are called according to His purpose.*”

That day so many years ago comes alive in my heart and mind even now.

I looked up into his gentle eyes as we both smiled. “*Yep, Granddaddy Gene, Shoot Fire!*” We both laughed in spite of it all.

May you find the joy that leads to perfect peace . . . just as we did so many years ago, His name is Jesus!

“Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice”

- Philippians 4:4