

Do Not Worry

[Jesus said] “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6:25-34)

The Story of ‘Zoe the Miracle Cat’

I have a cat. Her name is Zoe. She was a feral cat that we rescued eleven years ago. Zoe is named after the Sesame Street character whose likeness she resembles, which at the time, was a favorite on my now fourteen year old daughter.

Zoe has had a great life. She has a warm, safe place to sleep at night and a never-ending supply of kitty food. She gets lots of love and attention from the entire family. Zoe likes to spend time outdoors, but like most cats, she spends the majority of her time sleeping in the most comfortable place she can find.

Zoe recently became ill. She was vomiting repeatedly and became very lethargic. She wasn’t eating or drinking, so we took her to the vet, but they couldn’t find anything wrong with her. The theory was that maybe she had cat flu, or perhaps she ate something that didn’t agree with her.

We went back to the vet a second time and the doctor discovered a lump in Zoe’s stomach that he suspected was a stuck hairball (cats get those sort of things). The only remedy was to perform surgery, which was going to cost close to \$4,000. Spending \$4,000 was not an option, so the doctor sent us home with his best wishes.

My children were very upset about the pending doom of their beloved pet. My son laid hands on Zoe and prayed for her, and my daughter put Zoe on the church prayer list (and they did pray for her). Everyone was praying for Zoe to be healed. I am not aware of any instances in the Bible where God performed a miraculous healing on pets or animals. People, yes; animals, no. Nevertheless, we prayed for a miracle for Zoe.

Shortly after receiving the near-certain fatal diagnosis for Zoe, the Holy Spirit spoke to me. I always know when the Holy Spirit speaks to me because the Spirit causes me to think of things I never would’ve thought of on my own. And sometimes the Spirit tells me to do things that I otherwise wouldn’t do on my own, or that I don’t want to do. But I do them anyway because I know they’re from God. In the case of Zoe, the Holy Spirit told me to give her vegetable oil. So I did. I gave Zoe a small amount of oil through an eye dropper several times a day, and the next day, Zoe was back to normal. Whatever the blockage was, the oil caused it to pass. Zoe was back to eating drinking, roaming around the neighborhood, and sleeping, just like she did before.

Zoe was healed. It was a miracle, praise be to God! It wasn’t a miraculous healing, like we read about in the Bible. But God in His infinite wisdom, through the Holy Spirit, gave me the solution to save Zoe. And it worked, of course. As usual, God answered our prayers, in this case, by bestowing wisdom on me.

I’m reminded of the passage from Matthew 6 about people being much more valuable to God than the animals. If God healed my cat, will He not do the same for each of us? Perhaps He will bless you with a miraculous healing, or maybe He will provide an alternative solution. The lesson learned is that we need to be diligent in prayer, listen for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and then be obedient to whatever we are called to do.