

Finding Joy Amid Crises

One Christmas Eve, a man was driving two young women to a church youth group celebration when they came upon a multiple-car collision. They were unable to stop on the slick road before they slammed into the back of a car.

One of the girls, Donna, was thrown face-first through the windshield. The jagged edges of the broken windshield made two deep gashes in her left cheek. At the hospital, the doctor on duty happened to be a plastic surgeon. He took great care in stitching Donna's face.

Nevertheless, the driver was devastated by what had happened and dreaded visiting Donna on Christmas Day. He expected to find her sad and depressed. Instead, he found her happy and bright, asking many questions of her doctors and nurses. A nurse confided to him that all the nurses were making excuses to go into Donna's room; they called her a "ray of sunshine." She refused to let the accident destroy her Christmas joy.



The man moved to another city shortly thereafter and lost touch with the family – for 15 years. When he saw Donna's mother again, he fearfully asked how Donna was doing. Her mother told him that Donna had been so intrigued by her hospital stay that she became a nurse, got a good job at a hospital, met a young doctor, married him, and then had two children.

The mother added, "Donna told me to tell you that the accident was the best thing that could have happened to her!"

What a marvelous story about how we should approach the ups and downs of life. We have the freedom to choose our attitude in any and every circumstance we face. We can allow trouble to leave us depressed and weak, or we can determine to be happy and strong in spite of our trials.

When we opt to have joy, our worst moments can be transformed into our greatest triumphs.

You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11).

– Beecher Hunter