

RODNEY HIPP

FEBRUARY 16, 2018

WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR? THIS IS THE FOCUS OF OUR SMALL GROUPS LENTEN STUDY. I HAVE ASKED GOD THIS QUESTION MANY TIMES, ONLY IN A LITTLE DIFFERENT WAY. I ASK HIM, "WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO?" THE ONLY ANSWER I EVER GOT WAS, "KEEP ON KEEPING ON."

ON A PAST RETREAT AT MANRESA, GOD GAVE ME AN ANSWER I COULD UNDERSTAND. HE SPOKE TO ME, NOT WITH A VOICE, BUT IN MY MIND AND IN MY HEART. HE SAID, "**TRUST ME I WILL TAKE YOU WHERE I WANT YOU TO BE, ONLY TRUST ME.**" THEN I ASKED HIM , WHAT ABOUT MY WIFE, JANE? GOD SAID, "**THE TWO OF YOU ARE ONE.**"

TRUST ME! TRUST ME!.....I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GET THOSE WORDS OUT OF MY MIND. TRUST ME!

THE WORD I CONTINUALLY RECEIVED DURING OUR PARISH CHRIST LIFE SESSIONS WAS ALSO "TRUST."

TWO WEEKS AGO AT MY RETREAT THE RETREAT MASTER SAID, "I SUGGEST THAT YOU LOOK BACK OVER THE TRAJECTORY OF YOUR LIFE: HOW THE EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE HAD, THE CHOICES YOU HAVE MADE, AND GOD'S ACTIONS IN YOUR LIFE HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO WHERE YOUR ARE TODAY. I ALSO SUGGEST THAT YOU LOOK FORWARD WHERE YOU WANT TO HEAD AND WHERE GOD IS CALLING YOU TO COME".

GOD IS CALLING ME TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. THIS REALTIONSHIP STARTED WITH AN ENCOUNTER WITH HIM YEARS AGO. A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF MIND ONCE TOLD ME THAT IF AN ENCOUNTER DOES NOT DEVELOP INTO RELATIONSHIP, IT IS NOTHING. ANOTHER FRIEND TOLD ME THAT A RELATIONSHIP MUST CONTINUE TO GROW.

ONE WAY I CAN LOOK AT THIS RELATIONSHIP GROWING IS TO LOOK AT MY MARRIAGE TO JANE. OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS GROWN EACH DAY, AND IT CONTINUES TO GROW. I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT MY LOVE FOR HER TODAY IS STRONGER THAN IT WAS YESTERDAY BUT NOT AS MUCH AS IT WILL BE TOMORROW. IT IS THE SAME FOR MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, GROWING EACH DAY.

I TRUST HIM. WE ARE NOT IN CONTROL, GOD IS. MY PRAYER IS THAT MY LOVE FOR HIM CONTINUES TO GROW EACH DAY.

JESUS NEVER SAID IT WAS GOING TO BE A CAKE WALK. BUT HE DID SAY I WILL BE WITH YOU UNTIL THE END OF TIME. I AM NOT IN CONTROL -- HE IS.