

INTRODUCTION

Living Today as Your Best Day

Imagine the emotional turmoil a married couple experiences when a physician utters the words “three to six” with the significance meaning weeks to months to live. Life threw us a curve and my husband, James Laurence Knorr, with every ounce of energy and drive he possessed, chose to make every day for the rest of his life the best of his life.

Both of us grew up in Christian families. Our spirit-filled lives were centered around church involvement. Our faith was strong; yet our fast-paced lives kept us from slowing down to let God speak to us as a couple through daily devotionals. With the knowledge that his earthly life surely would be shortened by his diagnosis of AML leukemia, Jim wanted to talk about heaven. Then one small act of kindness changed our lives.

Our friends Charles and Libby Dalton brought us Libby’s “World’s Best Homemade Muffins” and a little book entitled, *Because of Jesus, Today is Your Best Day*. Inside, Libby wrote from author Roy Lessin’s words: “‘Today is your best day because of heaven!’ This little book is for you to read to Jim each day.”

Our home, as are most Christian homes, was already filled with devotional books. This one was different. God has gifted Roy Lessin with reaching out to us with few words of powerful meaning. Jim and I began to read “the book” (as we began to call it) every day. It traveled with us on Learjet ambulances from Greenville, South Carolina, to see specialists in Boston, Houston, and Temple, Texas.

We began to purchase copies to share with fellow patients, friends, and even our medical staff members. It seemed everyone who received the book wanted more copies to share with someone special in their

lives. Our Jewish physician, Dr. Gary Spitzer, became a Christian during this time and began to share “the book” with other patients.

We were reading the book straight through for the sixth time when on December 23, 2007, Jim and I enjoyed coffee and read this words together, “Today Is Your Best Day Because of Forever” (page 174). “Forever” was a profound word because on that day we experienced God’s promise of “today is your best day because of heaven.”

While living through his illness, Jim’s own spiritual life and intense desire to relate to everyone he met and knew grew continuously. *Because of Jesus, Today is Your Best Day* had an enormous influence on him. When God called Jim to heaven, we had shared this book with over 400 families. That number has increased to thousands of copies.

Roy Lessin’s Christian theme exemplifies the truth which Jim well knew that now he is in heaven “enjoying the things which God has prepared for them who love Him” (I Corinthians 2:9). Jim’s belief was that this promise is available to anyone who believes in Christ as their Savior. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him does not perish but has everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Rather than gifts or memorials, my son Todd and I asked those who knew Jim to dedicate a special act of love, giving of their time to someone or a worthy cause. This was how Jim lived. Time is the most precious gift you can share to make someone happy or to make a difference. Always remember...I hope you will honor my husband by sharing *Because of Jesus, Today is Your Best Day* and letting God use you to enrich the lives of others.

*Linda Ayers Turner Knorr
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