

Life Changing Word -- Broadcast 24--March 31, 2019

Good evening.

In the last few days, my family has suffered a tremendous loss. My brother's wife, passed suddenly and unexpectedly. We are all very shocked and sad.

Today has been a very hard day because it would have been her 49th birthday. So I am dedicating tonight's broadcast as a loving memorial to her life.

She was a very special, loving, wife, mother, grand-mother, daughter, sister, aunt, friend, and neighbor. But I knew her as "My Sis". She and I both only had brothers growing up. So when she married my brother, we bonded and became like each other's sister.

She told me that even as a child she loved Jesus and enjoyed attending church. Her relationship to Jesus was strong. She had great faith and prayed for everyone in the family. She was a believer in God's Word and faithfulness and was one of the main supporters of this Christian broadcast. I know she is with Jesus now and has eternal life with Him.

She was a native Texan and proud of it. She was an outgoing and athletic child. She enjoyed swimming in the family pool. She loved watching the Dallas Cowboy football games with her dad. She was a big fan. She knew the players going back into the 1970's and a lot of history about the team. A few years ago, she got a big thrill when she ran into "Mr. Cowboy", Bob Lily, at a restaurant. He followed her over to her table and chatted with us for a few minutes and even let us hold his Super bowl ring. She could not wait to tell her dad.

She graduated from high school and decided to enter military service. She joined the army and was honored with awards for her skill as a sharp shooter. She and my brother have some rural property. Occasionally they would have predators that would try to kill their animals in the middle of the night. On more than one occasion, my brother who is an experienced hunter would give the rifle to her because she could take down the predator with one shot. We teased him that you don't mess with Texas and you don't mess with Sis.

The day of their wedding I showed up at the church early and helped set up the fellowship hall for the reception to follow. I sat up the refreshments and

the cake table. I brought taped music for the ceremony and I became her unofficial wedding photographer. She was a beautiful bride in her wedding gown and I took several pictures of her as she got ready. They made a handsome couple and one of their favorite wedding pictures together was one that I took on the church steps.

She has a daughter and a son and three grand-daughters and one grand-son. The grand babies were a main source of joy in her life. Her husband, children, grand-children, and family were of highest importance to her. She was a Godly and positive influence in their lives.

She was an animal lover. They had dogs, cats, and several horses on the farm.

She worked for the local doctor's practice in the business office for many years. She was highly respected and admired by the doctors and her co-workers. Even though she did not work on the clinical side of patient care, she always felt that it was God's will for her to work in a place that took care of others. After my son had his heart surgery, he lived with my brother and his wife during his recuperation. She was like a big sister to him, because they are only about five years apart.

She was a kind and natural-born care-giver. The last few months of my Mom's life were spent living with my brother and his wife. They cared for Mom until she got so weak that she had to go into a nursing home. Also, her Pops and my dad were in the same nursing home at the same time. We both were caretakers of our fathers. We talked frequently and compared notes about the care they were receiving at the nursing home. We coordinated buying food and snacks for them to share. We arranged several special family celebrations for our dads. We planned birthday parties, Father's day, Christmas, and Thanksgiving.

She loved to vacation on the Gulf of Mexico, walk on the beach, eat seafood, and go boating. As sisters, we loved to shop, eat Mexican food, and listen to Country Western music. She was a huge George Strait fan and had many great memories of those concerts.

My brother and his wife celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 2016 with a lovely party. In 2018, they celebrated their 27th year of marriage and was looking forward to number 28 this year.

When my brother met his wife, he began to blossom. She was "the wind beneath his wings". He would let her know about a business opportunity and she would smile and say "let's do it". She was positive, supportive, and sacrificed to make their business a success and their dreams come true. They were very well matched for the life they built and shared.

Together they had built several businesses and are highly respected members of their community. Prayers and sympathy has been pouring in from business associates, former employers, employees, friends, and neighbors throughout the county.

There is an added sadness to this time of loss because her Pops had just passed away about 11 days before her passing. I talked to her a few hours before her passing and she was going through pictures of Pops and working on his upcoming memorial service. I cannot even imagine what her mother is going through at this time. She has lost a husband and a daughter in the last few days and two funeral services to attend. Please pray for her in this season of grief.

Please pray for my brother, her daughter and son, her whole family because this sudden loss is almost more than they can bear. I hope my brief tribute to her memory tonight is of some comfort to them.

I also want to remind everyone who is listening tonight. Please take the time to say I love you to your family members daily. Show them love with lots of hugs and kisses. Do not take life, love, or laughter for granted, EVER! Our season on this earth is brief even if we live into our nineties. Make sure that you are investing your time in positive, Godly goals and not wasting precious time on things that have no real value in this life or the life to come. Make each day count. You never know when God will call you home.

Because no one knows when God will require their soul, I want to offer everyone the opportunity to pray and ask Jesus to become their Lord and Savior. Repeat this prayer with me.

Jesus I confess I am a sinner. I humble myself and repent of my sins. Please forgive me of my sins. I believe You sacrificed your life and rose again from the dead to secure my salvation. Jesus come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior. In Jesus name.

Now here are some scriptures that I pray helps my brother and his family during their time of sorrow.

John 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That you shall weep and grieve, and you shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

And you now have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man can take from you.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me, you might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Again, I just had to take this time tonight, to honor, acknowledge, and celebrate the life and memory of "My Sis". When she walked in your house her smile and laughter filled up the whole room.

Now as a Bible teacher, I know all the scriptures on death and eternal life and in my head, I understand that God has some purpose for taking her home early, but as a grieving sister, I will be honest with you, MY HEART doesn't have to like it. With a broken heart, I love you Sissy and I'll miss you forever.

Finally, I want to end the broadcast with a song by Joey and Rory. Joey was an inspirational Christian singer, who passed from cancer at age 40. She recorded this song just a short while before she passed. I hope this will comfort and bless my brother and his family.

The song is When I'm Gone by Joey and Rory