



FAITH WHISTLES JOY

SCRIPTURE READING: *“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in*

Him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song.”
(Psalms 28:7)

It always makes us smile to see her special walk. She only does it when she’s most happy, and as a result it brings great joy to our hearts.

Born Autistic, deaf, and Failure to Thrive, our daughter, Danielle, faces many challenges each day. With two major disabilities creating an enormous communication barrier, her world of isolation is very frustrating. But, when she is at her prime and feels her best, it is revealed by how she walks. A peculiar gait indeed, she locks her left knee and walks like a pirate! It can happen anywhere and at anytime and when it does, we know she’s full of delight.

My husband and I have never figured out why she walks this way, but through the years we’ve grown to love it. We enjoy it so much we call her “Peg” when she does it. Whichever one of us sees her do it first they say to the other, *“Peg’s” with us today!* Then we cheer the fact that “Peg” has graced us with her presence.

Why do we love “Peg” so much? Because she’s fun! Dani always has a good day when “Peg” pays her a visit and as a result, we reap the benefit as well. Something as simple as walking into the grocery store can prompt her to totter on one straight leg, and whenever she does, the sun seems to shine a little bit brighter.

If you had a choice who to spend time with, would you pick a person full of joy like “Peg” or a whiny wet blanket? No doubt you’d pick “Peg.” People who complain, gossip and moan are miserable company and no one wants to be with them. A person full of joy on the other hand, is entirely different. Like faith, it is attractive and contagious. People want to be around those who have the Spirit of joy in them, because it’s a refreshing evidence of the presence of God. Even in the midst of great trials, those who put their trust in Him can whistle a joyful tune, and as a result, bless those around them.

Take a moment to look at yourself. Are you a “gloomy Gus” or does your faith whistle joy wherever it goes? Negative feelings, critical comments, and a dim outlook on life are not evidence of the fruit of the Spirit. When the Spirit of God is living and active inside you, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-



control will naturally prevail. It doesn't mean you'll never have a bad day, it simply means your attitude amidst the trial will be more joyful.

If our little girl can walk like "Peg" in spite of all her disabilities, surely you and I can do the same. Nothing is too big or too hard for God and He wants us to trust in Him in all we do. Whatever challenges you face today, God wants to ease your burden and fill you with joy. I pray you will let Him do that for you today.

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, I want to walk with You. Help me to trust in You and follow You every day of my life. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and make me new. Bring joy into my life so that I can be a joy to others. Thank you for hearing my prayer! Amen*

Adapted from ***Freedom, Healing for Parents of Disabled Children***, by Nancy Douglas.