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WELCOME TO OUR HOPE PROJECT'S

# Newsletter

We're so glad you're here!

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What we are about.....

## HOPE!

This newsletter aims to bring hope and joy to your daily life by sharing my family's journey through unexpected challenges. We firmly believe that a positive outlook, faith, and the right circle of friends will help you tackle any obstacle with resilience and a smile. In the upcoming editions, we will candidly share our recent experiences dealing with Parkinson's Disease and Esophageal Cancer.

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## Meet the Parker Family

From left to right: our oldest daughter (Grace), Me (Nick), my wife, hero, and best friend (Trina), and our youngest daughter (Anna).

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*(Lessons learned continued...)*

## Lessons learned from a Pinata

*"So it is with your prayers. Ask and you'll receive. Seek and you'll discover. Knock on heaven's door, and it will one day open for you. Every persistent person will get what he asks for. Every persistent seeker will discover what he needs. And everyone who knocks persistently will one day find an open door."*

*Luke 11:9-10 TPT*

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## Persistence is critical

This morning, as I read the verses above, it struck a new chord with me. Reminding me



of the pinata for the children's entertainment at my niece, Katie Parker's, birthday party last month.

You know how a pinata works, right? The youngsters line up, and each one gets a whack while blindfolded. Swinging at what is essentially a decorated cardboard box filled

with candy. The children take turns beating the pinata until the exterior shell is penetrated. When the candy spills out onto the ground, the melee begins.

I understand what you're thinking. What in the world does a piñata and those verses in Luke 11 have in common?

Here's my experience with Pinatas:

1. The first person in line rarely breaks through and gets to the candy.
2. Usually, some children begin to lose interest after they've been through the line a couple of times.
  - a. They begin to wander off, sampling the easier-to-reach sweets like cake, etc.
  - b. Some, in frustration, misbehave as their hope of a successful outcome wanes.
  - c. Some voice an opinion of skepticism with comments like "I can't hit it hard enough"
3. There are always a few children who persist, staying close to the pinata until the outer skin is broken and the candy spills out.
  - a. The ones who persisted, stayed close, and kept swinging, are usually the ones who get more candy.

In life, and especially in marriage, business, and prayer, it's really all about sticking with it! Persistence is what helps us reach our goals. I believe that persistence in prayer is just another way of demonstrating faith. My brother and sister-in-law (Ben and Leanne Parker, Katie's parents) purchased or made the Pinata for the party. Those kids, especially the ones who know Ben & Leanne well, knew the pinata wasn't empty. Those children knew that candy would come out eventually. Ben and Leanne didn't regulate the amount each child received. The children did that, on their own, by resisting distractions, staying focused, and remaining close to the source. They would be limited only by their ability to persist until the reward was received.

The promise that "every persistent person will get what he asks for" is both

encouraging and challenging. It invites us to consider the depth of our desire and the sincerity of our efforts. While the responses to our prayers may not always align with our expectations or timelines, the act of remaining persistent is in itself a testament to our faith. It teaches us to trust in the process and recognize that every experience—be it a perceived answer or silence—contributes to our spiritual growth.

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## Thought of the day

*By perseverance, the snail reached the ark.*

*Charles Spurgeon*

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## Coming Next Week

*lessons learned continued...*

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