

## Message of Thanks to Calvary Crossfields

I was asked by Pastor Joe to come up and share some of my blessings with you. As some of you know, I was involved in a horrific automobile accident in September which almost took my life. I use the word "almost" with great care and humility...and with overwhelming emotion because it is one of the few words that describe the possibility of separation from loved ones we cherish and the other ancillary things we think we hold so dear in this life.

To preface the miracle that your prayers and our God have given me, my children and my family, I'd like to return to the Sunday preceding the accident. Pastor Anthony reminded me of this when he visited me at my sisters house were I was recovering.

I was teaching your kids in the children's ministry that Sunday. The teachers were meeting for our usual morning devotional message and prayer. Pastor Anthony had been delayed and hadn't arrived, so with time ticking away, I was "appointed" by the other teachers to give the message and lead our prayer.

My message was a spinoff of the one I had been reinforcing to my kids in the 4&5 grade class. Simply put, if we want to see God more clearly, we must put on our "God-glasses". This is analogous to what Jesus told us in Luke 11:9. That "If we seek God by focusing on Him, we will find Him."

Two days later I was driving home from work in East Brunswick to pick up my son Christian from my wife Michele. A driver who had lost his focus swerved to avoid hitting a vehicle parked on the shoulder, and instead crossed the double yellow line and ran right into my driver side door.

I was cut out and extricated from my Jeep by the Jackson Twp. Fire Department, put in an ambulance, driven about ½ mile to Joy Park where a medivac helicopter picked me up and flew me to Jersey Shore Medical Center Trauma Unit. Interestingly, Joy Park is only about a mile from my house and the WAWA where Michele was waiting for me to transfer Christian. Also worth noting is that there is an EMT/fireman who held my hand and comforted me while I was still in the car and then came to the hospital and stayed with me from what I am told. He even returned the next day to check on me, leave a card and talk to my family and friends. His name is Josh which is short for Joshua, which we know translates to Jesus! How cool is that when you think of 2 Chronicles 16:9 (a) as phrased in the New King James Version.

Anyway, I was told by Pastor Joe who see's these things in his line of work that I was in really bad shape when him and Pastor Anthony came to see me in ICU. But just look! Your prayers and the prayers of so many others were answered in a most remarkable way.....thank you so much for praying for me.

- By your prayers, I stand before you on both legs that the doctors initially said I may never walk on. And if I were to walk, it would take at least a year. It took 5 months. Isn't it cool how He does things in such astonishing ways that it confounds the wise!
- By your prayers, and the amount of stainless steel and titanium that I'm screwed and bolted together with I have returned to work and have been able to witness to my colleagues in the municipal complex and an endless multitude of plumbers, electricians, carpenters and other construction workers that the Lord brings before me each day who have actually missed me..... as an inspector!
- By your prayers, I have just received a new handicapped tag and can now get a really good parking space at Giants games.
- By your prayers, I'll be able to come back to your kids in the children's ministry at the end of the month and continue teaching and exhorting them to wear their "God glasses" so they can see not only the beauty and wonder of our world as His Creation, but also miracles like this that are the work of the Lord through those He imparts wisdom and skillful hands
- And finally, but most importantly, by your prayers, the Lord has seen fit to answer you and give me back the gift of my life and the blessing of watching my 4 year old son Christian and my 12 year old daughter Rachel grow and flourish with their dad.

What I've recently told the men who saved my life and were given commendations for that from the Township of Jackson, I will tell you:

These are things that are inexpressible in words and can only be articulated by me in extremely inadequate expressions of gratitude and appreciation. Still, it's appropriate for me to do so. So again I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your fervent prayer and I exhort you as I do your children, to put on your "God glasses" and wear them continually.

Thank you and God bless you all

