

THE POWER OF LOVE

by Art Jackson

Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it. (Ephesians 5:25)

My wife Barbara has had Parkinson's Disease several years. In January and February of 2022, she dislocated her hip twice and broke her left leg. After surgery in March of 2022, she had to go Occupational and Physical Therapy. She had to relearn how to use many of her body functions. I had no thought of how many obstacles we would have to face. My priority was to do whatever I could to help her have a better quality of life. She is the love of my life!

From March 2022 through December 2023, I was with her several hours each day. She was getting therapy off and on. When it stopped, she and I would continue the exercises for her to become stronger. Through much of that time I helped her with or did everything for her. All through 2022 and 2023 I tried very hard to show Unconditional Love, Kindness and be very Courteous in my actions.

In January 2024, Barb started to do much for herself. But, I was so used to helping her with everything for so long, that I would jump in to help. Before, when she

couldn't do much for herself, she would tell me she loved me and say how much she appreciated my help. Then when she was able to do more for herself, she would yell at me and say leave me alone and allow me to do it myself! I felt rejected by the woman I loved so much.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, I would go home in the evening, many times feeling sorry for myself: "poor me, poor me." I felt deserted by God. I would pray to Him every night, asking for patience and understanding as to why things were going so badly for me. (At least that is what I thought). Then I would say to myself, Art, shame on you! Take the time and reflect on the many Blessings you have received through the years! I do know He is always present, if I allow Him to be. God has always answered my prayers. It may not have been the answer I expected!

I thought I was in love with Barbara when I married her, but as time passed that love has grown amazingly strong and so much more sincere. I cannot come up with words to explain it! I do know Our Lord Jesus Christ has played a role in making it so!!

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE AND GIVEN ME. THERE MAY BE OBSTACLES IN MY JOURNEY, BUT I KNOW I CAN GET THROUGH THEM WITH YOU BY MY SIDE. AMEN!