

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Hallmark Theology" 10/25/23

*No test or temptation which comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is God will never let you down; He will never let you be pushed past your limit; He will always be there to help you come through it. (1 Cor 10:13)*

It's that time of the year. We have watched pumpkins frost over, trees put on a final show as their leaves turned yellow and red and shone in the sun, before they fell. Days are getting shorter and colder. There's a threat of snow. The gardens are going to sleep for the winter. The grasses are turning brown, there are scary stalks still standing in the fields. Some enterprising folk have created corn mazes to entertain us before the snow gets too deep.

I've never gone into a corn maze, or any maze. I have such a bad sense of direction I'd never find my way out. Anyway, a corn maze had a character roll in the *Field Day*, on Hallmark movie a few weeks ago. It was pointed out, life is like a corn maze. You journey along for a while, enjoying the stroll, then you become challenged – which is usually a good thing. Then you start to wander and wonder. Some things look familiar, again. Some turns seem promising, you feel lucky, but nope, dead end. Onward, ahh - it's right not left, very promising, you take a turn and, as Jen says, “bam a wall of corn.”

I hope life isn't like a corn maze, though I do recognize those wild guesses and dead ends. But that's where faith comes in. If life is a corn maze, God designed it and there is a way out, and it'll be an unexpected blessing.

One day Abraham was blindsided when God asked him to sacrifice his son. I imagine that was a difficult maze, false starts and full stops. But in faith, he took his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar. As he reached out for his knife, the angel of the Lord called out to him and said, “Stop. Now I know you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” And God provided a ram for the sacrifice.

This had not been a good day for Abraham, but God had supplied another sacrifice. Abraham called the place, El-Shaddai, God will provide. This foresees the day God would provide His only Son, the Lamb of God, as a sacrifice for us. We, too, can rest in God, knowing no matter the situation, God will provide a solution to any problems we are facing as we do His will. Even when we face a wall of corn.

## **Please pray with me:**

Lord, thank You for walking with me, for the knowledge You have a plan, and You know the way in which I am to walk. Thank You for being with me, for Your love and strength, for Your amazing grace. I place my hand in Yours and trust You today and every day.

**Amen.**