

Family Forgiveness

Forgiveness is one of the hardest things to do. Genuine forgiveness, however, is the hardest. Alice Miller once said, "Genuine forgiveness does not deny anger but faces it head on". I can easily relate to this quote with my experience I had with my grandmother.

Awhile back, my dad's mom began making threats to my parents so she could get custody of me and my brother. One in particular threat has been stuck in my head ever since. She said she was going to cave my mom's skull in with a baseball bat. Every night I would think of her saying that, and picture her doing that to my mom. It was a scary thought for a kid to be thinking.

We tried staying away from her by blocking phone numbers, avoiding all contact with her, and even not talking to my uncle, grandpa, and cousin that lived in her home. Even though we did that, we still receive letters from her in the mail. Mostly all of them contained verbal abuse, derogatory language, and some sort of threat. This had been going on for 2 or 3 years. Even on my birthday, my uncle stopped by with gifts for me and a letter from my grandmother. Everything that I got for my birthday was from my uncle, but my grandma decided to write a dirty letter to my parents containing more insults and more threats. I couldn't believe she did that on my birthday.

Then on December 11th, 2011, my brother was rushed to the emergency room because he had what the doctors call a "Syncopal Episode". He had 2 of them that morning. We called my grandmother and told her to come down to the hospital where the ambulance was taking my brother, even though we were still furious with each other.

When I saw her I began to boil over with anger. Even though I was angry I was able to look past her craziness and see her stressed out and worried about my brother. When I saw her cry I saw that she cared about my family, otherwise she wouldn't have come down. I saw my family together again, but my brother was missing and getting needles stuck in him. All I really wanted was my family to be back together again.

It was very difficult to really forgive my grandmother for everything she had said and done, but I did. I hated how I decided to forgive her after my brother was checked into the hospital, but I was certainly glad my family was somewhat back, together and happy again. "Genuine forgiveness does not deny anger but faces it head on" is the quote of my life.