

God Doesn't Go "Poof"

Marcia Lee Laycock

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God Doesn't Go "Poof"

By Marcia Lee Laycock

A while ago I watched a re-run of an old movie, *Evan Almighty*. The comedy had some hilarious moments - like when God suddenly appears in the back seat of the main character's vehicle and the man screams in fear. God says, "Let it out, son, it's the beginning of all wisdom." And then there were a couple of scenes that brought God's truth to the wide screen.

Like the scene at a restaurant when God shows up as the waiter. He chats with the wife of the man who would be Noah, and tells her (I'm relying on my memory here, so the words may not be exact) - "If a person prayed for patience, do you think God would just go "poof" and give her patience? Or do you think God would give her the circumstances in which to develop patience? And say a person had prayed that her family would draw closer together - do you think God would just magically make that happen or would He put that family in circumstances that gave them the opportunity to be closer?" The woman sees the wisdom of his words and goes back to her husband.

I've been thinking about the truth in that scene, in light of my own circumstances lately.

I want God to go "poof" and make the cancer disappear. But perhaps there are things he intends to teach me, things about Him I could not learn any other way.

I also have been applying that truth to my plans for my writing, specifically my new book, the sequel to One Smooth Stone. It's not likely that God will go "poof" and make it an instant overnight success. But He will create the circumstances around that work that will lead me and teach me much. It will be an opportunity to learn and grow both in terms of the world of publishing, and in terms of my relationship with Him. It's another example of how God is often not so much concerned with the end result as with the process.

And that brings me to the difference in our perspectives and the need for me to adjust

mine. I want to see my book on the best seller's list. God wants to see it change lives. I want to become known as a writer. God wants me to know Him more.

I'm thankful for the reminder. And I'm thankful that I know God well enough to trust Him with the process. As he said to Evan - and to me through that crazy comedy - "I'm doing it because I love you."

Through the Scriptures, He also said, "So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you." (Luke 11:9) Many take this verse to mean that God is obligated to give us whatever we demand of Him. I'm thankful that's not the case. He won't indulge us like spoiled children, but treats us with the understanding only an omniscient parent can have. He knows what is best and will give us that, even when it seems to us it is no answer at all.

God doesn't go "poof" but He does love us beyond measure, no matter what the circumstances.

About the author:

Marcia is a pastor's wife, the mother of three grown daughters, a freelance writer and speaker. Her books, short stories, articles and poetry have won awards in Canada and the U.S. and been broadcast on CBC radio. Her work also appears frequently on the world wide web. She has taught writing courses for the Alberta Adult Education Department, Inscribe Christian Writers Fellowship, and The Word Guild. She speaks often for [Stonecroft Ministries](#) and at various women's retreats and events.

Marcia and her family have been privileged to live a short distance from the Arctic Circle, in Dawson City Yukon, where Marcia and her husband came to Christ, and two degrees off the Equator, in Papua New Guinea, where they served with Wycliffe Bible Translators. While there Marcia wrote for the Non-print Media Department of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, producing radio and video scripts. Marcia also held the communications portfolio for the Associated Gospel Churches in Western Canada, writing, editing and producing their quarterly newsletter for six years. She has served on the executive of [Inscribe Christian Writers' Fellowship](#) and is a member of [American Christian Fiction Writers](#)

Marcia's first devotional book, *Spur of the Moment*, won an Award of Merit at Write!Canada in 2003, a second devotional, *Focused Reflections*, is now in print. Both books were endorsed by Jeanette Oke, Phil Callaway, Sigmund Brouwer and Mark Buchanan. Marcia was the recipient of the Best New Canadian Christian Author Award in 2006, for her novel *One Smooth Stone*, published by [Castle Quay Books](#). Her second novel will be released by Castle Quay in the fall of 2011.

Marcia and her family currently live in Central Alberta, Canada where they are involved in planting a new church.

Other books by Marcia Lee Laycock:

Fiction:

One Smooth Stone

A Tumbled Stone

Non-Fiction:

Spur of the Moment

Focused Reflections

Anthologies:

Hot Apple Cide

A Second Cup of Hot Apple Cider

Stories for a Woman's Heart

Soul Matters for Mothers

Christmas Miracles

God's Way at Christmas

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Blogs: [Writer-Lee](#) (reviews and information of interest to readers and writers);

[Marcia Laycock](#) (Marcia's personal blog);

[Novel Journey](#) (Sunday devotional columnist);

[Inscribe Writers Online](#) (Inscribe Christian Writers);

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