



What is GOOD in the World?

I've spent the last at a retreat/conference in the mountains outside of Asheville, NC. During one of the sessions, one of the participants told a story of a wheel-chair bound individual who, when it was suggested to him that "being confined to a wheelchair must be awful", replied, "On the contrary, the wheelchair is my freedom."

After 3-1/2 weeks on crutches, with another 2-1/2 (at least to go), I caught that comment like a slap in the face. I'd spent most of the last couple of weeks bemoaning the limitations imposed by the crutches. But, after having been driven on carts, or

pushed in a wheelchair, through airports, I began to appreciate the freedom the crutches gave me. By virtue of my injury, I could have been confined to a bed. The injury could have prevented my attending the conference. But, no, I have CRUTCHES! I have independence! And, I have a new way of viewing the world.

I've spent the last couple of days celebrating my incapacity. I've celebrated the help I've received. I've celebrated my sense of helplessness. I've celebrated my NOT being God, having control wrested from me.

During another part of the conference we watched a video called "Celebrating What's Good in the World." The video focused on how the main character, a National Geographic photographer, vowed NOT to let bad light, or bad scenery, deter him from looking for the great photo. And, with a different perspective (looking for what's good in the world), he was able to take fabulous photos.

Crutches? What's bad in my world? No. What's good! And, when I'm finally able to set them aside, there will be a new good to look for. I certainly will always have other (metaphorical) crutches; my challenge will be see THEM as my freedom as well. In our brokenness, we can be well.

Blessings,

Gary