

## ***Love Is Difficult***

Finding the ability to love someone that loves you one minute and threatens you the next is a challenge. As a novice with Alzheimer's disease, I had so much to learn the hard way! Over the past months, I experienced a level of stress that made me want to walk away and never look back. Rudy and I helped my Mom move to another living arrangement, empty her house, sell it, sell her car, reassign all her personal financial matters to me at my address, care for her medical condition of dementia and deal with her demands for attention and take care of our own living needs.

All of that was fine except for her many outbursts of demands, accusations, threats to her life if I did not bring her the car or return her to her house. The struggle came in that many days she gave permission for all the above to happen and the next day or moment she would explode with screaming and issuing of threats to revoke the power of attorney, and of killing herself. When the phone rings, you begin to not want to answer it as you do not know what mood she is in.

Our time to leave approached and we gave careful thought as to how to do it to prepare her for our departure. All the time spent getting the house and car sold ended up falling through in the last week! We finally got a contract for the house right before we left. We got Mom to sign it the next morning as well as a POA for my brother to sell the car in Texas. The next morning, we had breakfast with her, said our goodbyes and she was fine. We left to get the motorhome and pick up her car. For the next three hours she called and demanded we return the car with threats to call the police, screaming and accusing me of all sorts of uncaring acts. How little I knew at that time. Since I was to drive her car while Rudy drove the motorhome and towed our car, my brother and I made the decision to leave the car but gave a neighbor the keys. I was not in any shape to drive a long drive! She called us all day as we drove, and we simply had to turn off the cell phone. The next morning, I called her, and she calmed some and as we talked, she returned to the cooperative person she had been earlier in the week.

We arrived in Denton for our grandson's dedication at his church. As our God is so good, He had a message for me in the sermon based on John 15:12-17, ***"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends...You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other."***

Yes, Lord, I can make this work but only with YOU! I am way too weak to continue on my own. Please abide with me daily and enable me to care for and love Mom during these difficult days. Enable her to deal with her losses and enjoy the joys she still has in her life. Help me to define limits and continue to honor them. I praise you for your message.