

## EMMA GRACE



2 Samuel 12:22,23 “And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”

Emma Grace Lambert was born on March 12, 2010. She was born with a hole in her heart. The doctors told us that we would need to repair it sometime within 4 to 6 months. They reassured us that was a routine surgery. It was nothing to worry about. Emma would be home within a week after surgery and we wouldn't have to worry about it anymore.

Originally, the doctors told me during my pregnancy that I would most likely never even carry her full term. She was diagnosed with Down's Syndrome. Her ultra sounds showed a hole in her heart. At first they believed she had severe hydrocephalus, a fluid retention problem in her head. Next, they said her entire right side of her body had stopped growing. Finally, they were fairly certain the upper left portion of her heart wasn't there. Termination of the pregnancy was continually suggested and even encouraged. After all, they said she would most likely be still born. Imagine our joy when our beautiful baby girl was born at 37 weeks practically perfect in every way. Emma Grace did still have a hole in her heart and was born with Trisomy 21, but the hole was repairable and the Down's factor just made her even more lovable.

She spent a few weeks in the hospital after birth just to reassure the doctors she really was remarkable. She breastfed-they said she wouldn't. Her hearing and vision were perfect. Her little body at 5 lbs 8 oz appeared as flawless as any newborn with 10 pretty little toes and 10 pretty little fingers.

Her brilliant blue eyes and dynamic personality won the hearts of the hospital staff that helped care for her in her first few weeks. Finally the day came when we could take her to her own bed at home. For 4 months we completely enjoyed the happy blue eyed gem that God had blessed us with. Each day was precious. Each person who held her was touched in a way words can't express. It was as if the Lord had used this bundle of love to open the hearts of many to see Him. Her eyes wouldn't wander as other newborns, but rather she'd look deeply into the eyes of who ever held her as if to reach into the center of their heart. She would speak in her own language and yet somehow you could understand the tenderness of what she was saying.

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She was unique and powerful in grabbing the affection of every life she came in contact with.

On July 20, 2010 Emma Grace went into the OR with the love and prayers of many. After a few short hours she returned to her room and we were hopeful she would recover well. After two days she was awake, alert, playing with her toys, and stunning the entire staff with her rapid recovery and personality. She had captured the attention of every person who knew of her. And then the Lord's hand moved.

It seemed as though we blinked and everything changed. Quickly, she went into respiratory arrest. Emma began a series of bad turns that blended days and weeks into a blur. We watched as our daughter went from laughing to life support. We cried and prayed and so did many others. Our hope was in the strength of the Lord. The doctors and surgeons had ideas and plans but all seemed to make matters worse. After a second surgery and much prayer we said enough.

We began to watch Emma improve as the "medical efforts" were removed. The Lord spoke to us clearly. He showed us that He could heal her physically now but we needed to trust in His plan. As we surrendered our will to His, we realized He was in control. Emma Grace belonged to Him. Her life was His to use. And use it He did.

After two days of miraculous recovery, Emma again began to decline. On August 7, 2010 the good Lord took Emma Grace Lambert home to be with Him. He was faithful to answer all our prayers AND fulfill His plans. She is now completely healed. Amen. Many lives have been touched by hers. Amen. His message can be heard through her life and our loss. Are you listening?

I wouldn't have chosen to allow my child to suffer especially to save the life of another. I accept it, but I wouldn't have chosen it. The Lord willingly chose to offer up His only Son, to suffer and die for many. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

He loved His Son no less than I loved my child; He loves you enough to sacrifice His Son's life for yours.

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). My friend, are you listening? We can't bring Emma Grace back from the dead, but we can go to her one day. I am going, thanks to the shed blood of Jesus. Are you?

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)  
"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1John 5:12)



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