

# Scott's Thoughts

March 22, 2026



*“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”*  
(Romans 8:28, ESV)

We both have changed over the years. When we first met, I was 17 and Ava was 16. By the time of our first date, I was just a few days shy of 18 and she was 17. We liked each other and enjoyed spending time together, but marriage was something far off in the distance. I'm not even sure how the idea eventually took root. Not long after we began dating, I left home for boot camp, and our time together became scarce. Still, we stayed connected through letters. Looking back, I'm amazed she kept writing to me—my spelling, grammar, and penmanship were all terrible back then. During those long stretches apart, both of us dated others over the next three years, yet something kept drawing us back to each other again and again.

As I sit here today, I look at Ava—55+ years after our wedding day. Physically, we both look different, but deep inside she is still the same sweet person she has always been. I have grown to love her for her deep and tender heart. And I have come to hate the horrible cancer that has stormed into our lives. It has taken so much from us, yet strangely, it has also brought new things into our life. Today, I want to focus on the good. Today we have hope. Hope for a cure. Hope that the treatments will extend her life for many more years.

For four years, Ava was the caretaker for me. She stood beside me as I faced a devastating illness. I know she prayed for me through tears, fully aware that my

death was a real possibility. I cannot say I have enjoyed her illness—far from it—but it has given me the chance to be the caretaker this time. Cancer has given me the opportunity to show her how deeply I love her, not just in words but in action, putting her first as I should have been doing all along.

I am thankful that she has been part of my life, and that through her I have learned the love of God. She had already committed her life to God before she met me and has demonstrated her love of God, day after day since November 20, 1970. Through her love and prayers, she led me to Christ. Thanks be to God that He gave me this woman to bring light into my life. I would not have that hope without her. Now we have an even greater hope—that we will spend eternity side by side with each other and with Jesus.

Pray with me as Ava and I continue this life of love and service to God and to each other.

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”*  
(1 John 3:1, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott