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Pray to Your Father

There are many things in life that are simply out of our control. Isn't it wonderful to know that you as a child of God can pray to your Father in heaven who has control over all things. Man's knowledge is very limited; God's knowledge is infinite. Isn't it comforting to know that your Father in heaven knows exactly what is going on seeing all things concerning your petition.

When Jacob was about to see his brother Esau who had been angry with him for years, he prayed to God saying "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me *and* the mother with the children." Genesis 32:11

Jacob's prayer was answered, "But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept." Genesis 33:4

King Hezekiah became sick and the prophet Isaiah told him to get his house in order he was going to die. What did Hezekiah do? "Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done *what is* good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly." Isaiah 38:2-3

Hezekiah's prayer was answered "And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying, ""Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years." Isaiah 38:4-5

Jesus was about to go to the cross and He prayed three times to His Father in heaven saying, ""O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."" Matthew 26:42

Jesus' prayer was answered, He died on the cross. This was the Father's will to save us. Did the Father not care about His Son? Of course not!

We simply do not have all the answers to the "why me?" questions we have as we go through life. What we must continually do is pray because our Father in heaven does care. 1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." He is listening to His child. He does care and He does answer the prayers of His children because He loves them so very much.

STACY

Modern Dancing

- by J. S. Smith

In Old Testament times, dancing was a form of praise that did not mix the sexes nor excite the libido. I don't know what that dancing looked like, but I haven't seen any like it lately. Modern dancing is absolutely nothing more than a mimicry of the sex act (a private act reserved for the marriage bed – Heb. 13:4) put to music. If the band were not playing in the background, such movements and positions would be scandalous. The Bible says they are anyway. Listed among the evident works of the flesh is lewdness. Lewdness (Greek *aselgeia*) is defined by Thayer as "wanton acts or manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc." Apply the latter part of that definition and we could be led to believe that Joseph Henry Thayer was watching the modern dance as he penned it.

Modern dancing is lewdness. Such is improper for a Christian (Rom. 13:13) and will prevent him from inheriting the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:21).

Moses Instruction To Parents

by Rickie Jenkins

God has no grandchildren. He only has children.

As much as we would love it, there is no automatic transfer of God's truth to others. Everyone must make his or her own spiritual journey.

Moses recognized that. This mighty leader of Israel spent his last words telling the Israelites how to pass on God's word to their children. "...that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your sons and grandsons, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged" (Deuteronomy 6:2). If we have children, or grandchildren, He is talking to us. He is telling us how we can pass along His word.

To get the full impact of Moses' words, remember the present location of the Israelites. After wondering for 40 years, they now stand on the banks of the Jordan river, on the verge of the Promised land. This new territory before them would be the place where their children and grandchildren would grow up. At the beginning of this new life for God's people, Moses gives three directives:

Hear the truth continually (vs.4). Knowing they were about to march into a land that had no history of faith, He began with the basics: "Hear, O Israel. The Lord is our God, the Lord is One!" Take this Lord your God with you into the new land. As you set up home and establish your faith, remember, the Lord alone is your God. Don't forget and don't compromise. God is first. God is the focus of our worship. He is, in fact, the foundation of our life. Drive down family roots deep with this truth. The Lord is our God.

Love the Lord fervently (vs. 5). Moses' second point: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." He is talking about total commitment to love and to trust God. Our children discover it in moments like this: "Kids, it's a hard time for us as a family right now, but God will provide. We are going to trust Him during these tough times; you trust Him along with us." There is something wonderful about loving God with all your heart and soul. It unmask us.

Teach the young diligently (vs.7). This is not about parents learning the Bible and stopping there; it is about parents implanting God's word in the hearts of their children. It is telling about and showing them our faith. What we have heard and what we have grown to love, we now teach to our children. Look at how natural Moses made it: "Talk to them about God's truth." Talk, not deliver a lecture. Don't try to force a whole sermon into your dinnertime prayer! Don't shove big chunks of truth down their throats – live it on a day-to-day basis. Let it come naturally. One way to do this is to make God's word the very center of your home. Live it out in how you respond to life's joys and challenges. It is fine to frame verses and put the Bible on a coffee table, but they've never changed a person's life. The verses written on the hearts of parents shape a kid's perspective. If we are not careful, life gets busy and complicated, and a teachable moment will fly by without a word. Don't let it. Moses' warning in Deuteronomy 6 is as fresh today as it was then.

We all want our children and grandchildren to live godly and courageous lives. It will not happen automatically. Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, assure the children you love that your relationship with God is your first priority, that you love Him with all your heart, all your soul, and with all your might. Pass those truths on to them. Begin early!

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