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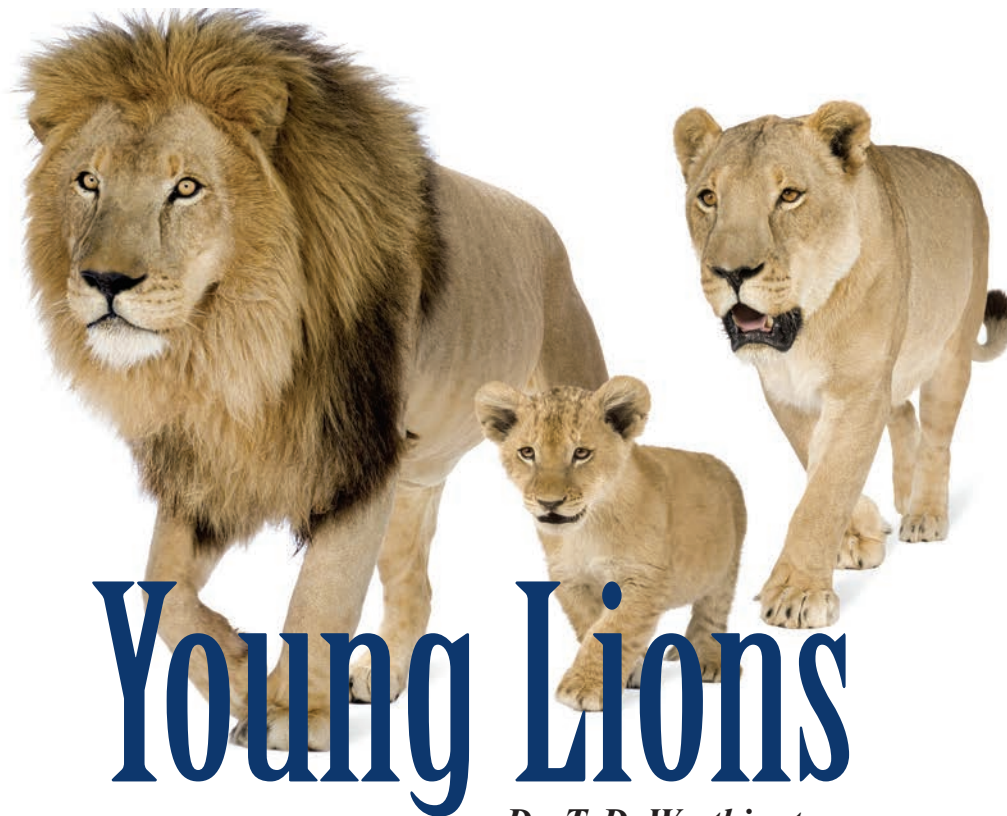
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Young Lions

Dr. T. D. Worthington

“Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life; but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons.”

Deuteronomy 4:9

It’s a jungle out there. . . surely you have noticed. So, if we can agree about the savage world we are living in, then hopefully you can see how your children will have to be “*young lions*” in order to survive with their testimonies intact. Jesus Christ is called a lion; of course, so is the devil. . .so, either way it must denote a lot of power and influence. Our children will be under a tremendous amount of pressure, so we must equip them.

Consider Daniel: He was a teenager held captive in a wicked environment, separated from Godly influences, renamed after a heathen god, and enrolled in a pagan educational system, yet when most of his peers apparently

yielded and conformed, he refused. Daniel was a young lion.

Lions are known for their great abilities. They can clear a fence 12’ high, they can leap 20’ in one jump, they can drag twice their own weight, they can charge at 50 mph, and they can crush bones with their teeth. Actually, we can learn quite a bit when we consider four Biblical aspects of the lion by doing a simple study of words.

II Samuel 17:10, the first word is “*ar-ee*”.

The word notes bravery, fierceness, confidence, and heroism. We might summarize the word as “*courage*”. Now, courage is not the absence of fear, it is the ability to deal with fear. Courage is being afraid, but no one knows it but you!

All children will have fears. I did when I was a child. However, we must teach our children to deal with their unhealthy fears while acknowledging that certain

healthy fears must be maintained. Kids will often need help to summon up the courage to get on a horse or to go into a dark room, but you can patiently deal with these things one-by-one.

Will your child have the courage to stand up to a bully who may be picking on another kid? Will he have the courage to listen to Christian music when everyone else likes rap?

Apart from a child’s usual manifestations of fear, one sign of inward fear is lying. Telling the truth, especially when it is initially painful, requires courage. Everyone has lied, and most have ended up regretting it. Of course the devil will tempt kids to lie, but they often develop their skills by watching their parents. You teach truthfulness by sticking to your word. Kids will remember if you don’t do what you promised and will begin to view deception as proper in certain situations. Children need to be disciplined when they lie, but they also need to be praised when they tell the

truth. Covering up a mistake or bad behavior is a natural tendency, so be sure to let your child know how proud you are when they tell the truth.

What are some of your children's unhealthy fears? Can you think of ways to address them one-by-one.

Proverbs 28:1, the next word is “kef-er”.

The word notes maturity. It refers to a lion as his mane begins to grow. This maturity will help protect the lion's neck in battle, but its majestic appearance is also a sign to other lions of his maturity. For the child it means he is to look, dress, and act mature. Often, his character and outward appearance is the first sign of his inward maturity. Paul told Timothy not to give an occasion for anyone to despise his youth. In other words, he was instructed not to act like a dumb kid. Even children can develop a certain “*look of confidence*”. Apparently, Christ displayed this when He was 12 years old and went into the temple. The way He looked, acted, and spoke commanded the respect of the elders. What are some ways we might promote maturity in our children?

Teach them Empathy. Do we have empathy today? Are we as parents able to put ourselves in other people's shoes? Do we have an active compassion for the elderly, the poor, or the person at work having a hard time? If we could teach our children empathy, it would put a huge dent in the bullying problem we have today. Kids who like to bully have trouble with empathy—that is, viewing life from another person's perspective. Children are naturally selfish, but parents can help by teaching them to be helpful to others and to have compassion on those who are weaker. Help them learn about people in need and to see that even a child has the

ability to change someone's life for the better. Your child can help minister to the elderly, cut someone's grass, or rake a neighbor's leaves. As you work with them, perhaps you can share a time when you needed help from someone, and you can remind them that one day they may need such help. Your lessons about being on the receiving end of empathy can make a lasting impression on a child.

Teach them to be Grateful. Are we grateful today, or are we dissatisfied with our lot in life? How can we teach gratefulness if we are ungrateful? We must teach our children that gratefulness is more than just saying “*thanks*” when someone hands you something. Strive to teach kids to appreciate all they have. You could also make a point of expressing gratitude when you're together, even for the smallest pleasures (*a beautiful sunrise, a kind word from someone, etc.*) Are we teaching our children to be grateful?

Teach them Obedience. How do we teach obedience? First, we must be obedient to our own authorities. Do we knowingly disobey traffic laws? Do we follow the rules and procedures at work? Second, we must be consistent. Be sure children know what is expected and then hold them accountable every time.

Teach them Manners. Parents are usually the first ones to teach children manners. Are we good examples? Do we have manners with our spouses or our children? How many friends would we have if we treated them the same way we do our own family? How many customers, students, patients, or friends would we have if we treated them as we do our spouses or children? Remember what children see they will copy. How do we expect the children

to know something is not appropriate if we are always doing it?

Teach them Respect. As parents, do we criticize others, especially those in leadership, in front of our children? Do we complain about our neighbors, our church or our school? Do we criticize the other parent? How will they be respectful if we do not teach them by example?

Teach them Values and Absolutes. Are there things that we stand on and do not bend? For example, do we vote for someone even if we know they are for abortion? Do our children know there are places we will not go, things we will not watch, things we will not listen to, and things we will not do? How can we expect them to stand when they are tempted with sin when we don't stand?

Teach them Against Laziness. We want our children to be responsible. We want them to do their chores, do well in school, study their Bible, do their assignments on time, and many more things. Yet, we are not fulfilling our own responsibilities at work or at home. We don't take our responsibilities seriously so how will they?





Teach them Life is not always Easy. How can we teach our children to roll with the punches when we are not able to? Life is not always easy and smooth. Modern children seem to have difficulty dealing with life when it doesn't go their way. Honestly, many adults have the same problem. How can we teach them to be tough when we wear our feelings on our shoulders? How can we expect them not to be moody when we are moody? We must not allow our children to be rude or whiny because they don't get their way. It starts with our example.

Isaiah 5:29, the third word is “law-bee”.

This word describes the lion as a roarer. The lion communicates his authority by his roar. Children need to be taught to be resolute and determined in their words. Now, this does not mean they are always to be loud and aggressive in their speech, but it does mean to speak with an air of confidence—*not arrogance*—but confidence. God speaks with authority and confidence, yet He apparently often does so with a “*still small voice*.” As this world gets worse, our children will need

to learn there are times to say “*no*” even if everyone else is saying “*yes*”. This lesson teaches them the positive attribute of standing alone. Of course, they will need the wisdom to know which side of an issue to take—but, once they do, they must have the courage to roar if necessary. Are we teaching our children to speak with confidence and determination?

Proverbs 30:30, the final word is “lah-yish”.

This final word notes the lion as a crusher. Lions are very strong, but they don't use this power unless it is needed. If the lion is not hungry, an easy prey can walk right by him and he will not attack. But, if he senses danger, or an encroachment on his territory, or if he is hungry there will be danger for any animal that might be in his sight. The same is true of our children. We teach them to turn the other cheek whenever possible and to speak with a quiet respectful voice. We teach them not to look for trouble and to avoid it whenever possible, but we must also teach them to fight when necessary; to be a reluctant, but powerful crusher when required. Can you think of ways you

are helping to teach your children to crush that which is wrong?

Remember, Parents Must Set the Example.

Years ago we seldom if ever heard a swear word on television. Today 87% of 12 year olds say they curse. The same group said they heard most of the words first at home. Mom and Dad, don't fuss in front of the kids, don't have bad manners in the home, don't lie to your kids (*although there may be times you have to withhold information*) and don't walk around in your underwear in front of your kids. After a child gets five years old or so, they are too old to bathe with you, and if they crawl in bed with you make sure you have on pajamas. There is a danger you are planting images and curiosities they are not equipped to handle. The average child today has sex at 12.7 years old, and the age is decreasing with each survey that is taken. Just think, if 12.7 is the average that means some are 10 or 11—or younger!

Talk about your faith. Don't be shy about your Christian faith, but don't be pushy about it either. Look for opportunities to draw conversations with your children back to God. For example, use the beauty of creation to direct their attention back to the One who made it all. Children are looking for this sort of spiritual guidance; so don't be afraid to give it to them. The only way our children can be secure in the modern day jungle of this world is to be trained to be a young lion—and that is our responsibility.



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry over forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries.

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Usually, when we trade one thing for another we like to think that we are “trading up.” It is only natural to desire for our new job or new car to somehow be better than our old one. So, the *“principle of greater glory”* means that lasting change usually only becomes a possibility when we trade up for something that we are convinced has more glory in it.

Consider Prayer

The power of prayer should not be underestimated. **James 5** declares, *“...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”* God most definitely listens to prayers, answers prayers, and moves in response to prayers. When we pray passionately and purposefully according to God’s will, God responds powerfully! Yet, we will continue to worry, complain, and bicker until we become convinced of the greater glory that can come through

prayer. We will not trade up to prayer until we become convinced of the greater glory.

Consider Your Family

For those who are having difficulty in marriage, do you think your spouse can change? YES, of course they can! More importantly, you can change, too! And, you can change FIRST! God has planned and empowered the continual transformation of your life. The Lord will continuously mold you and change you if you let Him. Your age makes no difference. Your background does not matter. Your past is of no consequence. With the Lord, there is always hope. Your family can become that trophy of grace, a model of what the Lord can do to change a relationship.

But again, we will continue to trust in earthly solutions—or no solutions—to our marriage problems until we become *convinced in the greater glory of trusting in the Lord.*

These are just two areas where if we learn to fix our hearts on the Lord and trust in the principle of greater glory, we can begin to see real change in our lives. The Bible says we should, *“Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, Give unto*

the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” (Psalm 29:1-2) This means we are to “ascribe glory” to the Lord, and we do this when we ascribe a greater glory to God than the glory you “receive” from earthly sources. When you put more trust in His power than you do in anything else, you are giving Him glory.

Is it time for you to trade up? Trading earthly power for God’s power? Trading earthly wisdom for God’s wisdom? Trading earthly answers for God’s answers? Trading the limited for the limitless?

GoMix Christian Radio is here for you as a constant reminder for us to trade the glory of earthly things for the greater glory of God.



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Artist Spotlight - Legacy

Legacy was formed in North Carolina in the spring of 1990 by Clyde Sorrell of Durham and Walter Bass of Garner. The first scheduled singing for the group was on April 9, 1990. Since then, the group has traveled many miles throughout South Carolina, Virginia, and North Carolina. Through the many miles of travel, one of the biggest blessings to the group are the many friends they have met along the way.

Legacy has ministered the Word of God through testimony and songs in prisons, large auditoriums, outside on trailers and stages, in churches, and anywhere else the Lord has lead. **Legacy** sings a variety of songs, mostly Southern Gospel. They enjoy singing many of the newer songs, but also enjoy some of the old hymns they grew up singing in their home churches. For many years **Legacy** was blessed to sing songs written by their former keyboard player, Durwood Hargis. Durwood's songs always came from his heart and had a special message. They like to say they "built" these songs from the ground up. **Legacy** still sings some of Durwood's songs today.

Legacy is a member of The East Coast Gospel Music Association, and they love being a part of the ECGMA's Family Day the first Saturday every May, and the annual ECGMA Convention the first weekend every November. These are great times of singing, fellowship with friends, and worship.

The current members of **Legacy** today are James Sauls (*tenor*), James Kirby (*lead*), Mike Aycock (*baritone*), Gary Hayes (*bass*), Gene Dawson (*backup vocals, musician*), and Dale Kirby (*transportation, sound technician*).

Legacy would love to come worship with you and share their message in song at your church or community function. For booking, Mike can be reached by telephone at **919-736-0795** or by email at m.aycock@legacyministries.com. You can also see **Legacy**'s current schedule and purchase CD's on their website, www.legacyministries.com.



Problems!

Mrs. Sherry Worthington

I made contact with a childhood friend recently, and it sent me down memory lane. It took me back many, many, many years ago in a land far, far away...well, it seemed that way anyway! When I first met her, I was about nine years old. We had just moved into the neighborhood, and I was excited to learn there were several children my age that lived near my new home.

Our house became one of the neighborhood hangouts. My dad mowed the grass in the shape of a football field in the backyard. The boundaries were cut just a little shorter. He sometimes played quarterback for both teams. I had two brothers, and I didn't want to be left out. I enjoyed playing ball and was pretty good at it, but my friend was a much better athlete than I. She could outrun and outplay many of the

boys. I wonder if her children would be surprised. I know mine couldn't picture me throwing a football, much less playing tackle.

My friend was very strong. I remember a particular instance when one of our friends was teasing me, and she set them straight. I also remember one time in high school when she set me straight as well. The thing is, she was right both times. She spoke with tact and kindness, which brought conviction. My friend was not afraid to stand up for what was right, and I always admired her for that.

She entered my life forty-eight years ago. Wow! That doesn't seem possible. We graduated high school, and our paths went different directions. I have seen her briefly on occasion since then, but now she is on my mind constantly. As you can

imagine, she and I are different than when we were young, but we still have a lot in common.

We both have a family and beautiful children. The funny thing is we are older now than our mothers were at the time we graduated high school. When I saw her picture, I thought of her mother. She was quite a lady! Both of our parents were very involved in our school activities. They accompanied us on band trips and went to the ball games to see us perform. We had our parents' support when we were young, and we have it now. We both had the blessing of growing up in Christian homes. Her father went to be with the Lord a few years back.

We both have the grand privilege of being grandmothers! Oh, what a delight! It makes our hearts soar

to see the smiles of our precious angels. They can make us smile when we don't feel like smiling and make us cry when they are hurting. Grandchildren are such a blessing, but we worry about them, too.

We both have had some hills and valleys in our lives. Some of our experiences are the same, and others are different. When two people have gone through the same difficulty, they are able to understand the problem, and their hearts ache for each other. It also helps to know how to pray.

The greatest thing which brings us together is our faith. It is why we are able to communicate together in any depth now. We are sisters in Christ! I reestablished contact with my friend because I heard she had cancer.

I had hoped to encourage her. I have never had cancer, but I have had loved ones and friends who have been through the horrible ordeal. I wanted to let her know I was praying for her. The table turned around completely. She ended up encouraging me. Her first contact with me let me know her faith was strong. She assured me, "God is in control." Shortly thereafter

she told me of her Christian doctor who has a faith based practice. Then, after all she has been through, she writes, "*God is good all the time.*"

Wow! She later shared some other difficulties that have come her way, and I am so amazed! My friend has not blamed God or anyone else for any of her trials. It would be natural to wonder why or to be afraid. There would be nothing wrong with that. It is also alright when we don't understand the things that are happening in our lives. We just have to keep the right attitude in our hearts.

I have known someone to get mad at God because her air conditioner was not working. I know someone who was upset because God "made" him fat. I have even heard someone say; "*I did all of this for God. What has He ever done for me?*" Wow! Why does this happen? I think because we are spoiled, or perhaps for some of us, our faith is weak and our love for God is shallow.

As parents, our children often have to trust us. If we tell them no, they need to obey. When we spank them, they have to believe we love them.

But many times, things happen in our children's lives which we would love to stop-especially when they are grown. It is so hard when we feel they are making a decision that is not good for them. Our hearts cry out! "*Don't do this!*" Can you imagine how God feels? The Holy Spirit pleads for us to get back on the right path.

There are other things that occur in our lives just because we live in a sin cursed world. Many diseases are a result of the laws of nature taking its course. In America, many things may happen because we have not taken care of the world God gave us. Sometimes, we just don't know why things happen to us. We must trust that it is for the ultimate good of the kingdom. We have to take the opportunity to learn from the struggle. When a Christian can say, "God is good all the time," I admire her faith.

God is good all of the time. He is good when the cupboard is full and when it is empty. He is good when we are healthy and when we are sick. He is good when we know what to do and when we are searching. We must never doubt God. He is good all the time!

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

***Please pray for my friend!
Thank you!***



Mrs. Worthington has five children and ten grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.



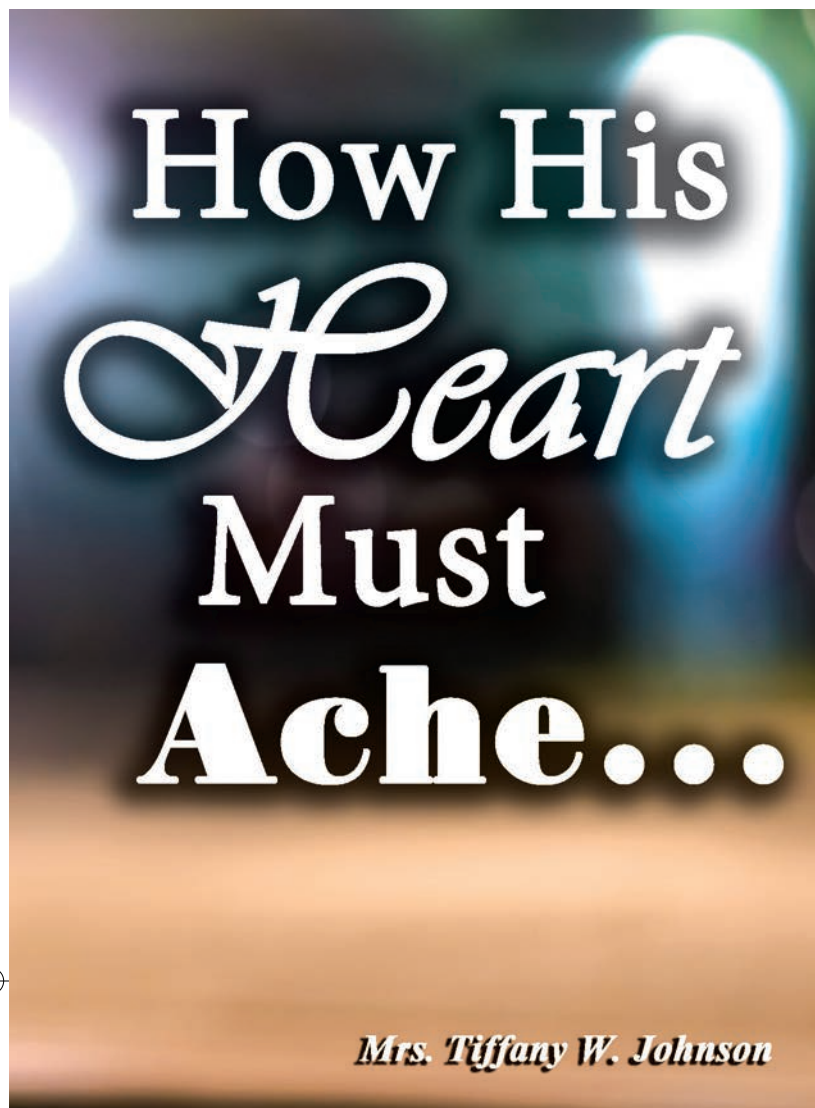


So, there I was getting ready for bed one evening. It was shortly after the last presidential election, and I was in the room alone while my husband and daughter were elsewhere. At this time, there were protesters gathering and marches taking place all over the U.S. All sorts of stories were being broadcast by the media, and it seemed as if America was going crazy. Earlier that week I was walking on my lunch break and saw a “male” (*not a man*) in skinny jeans, high heels, and make-up in the parking lot of a local fast-food restaurant. On that same short walk, I passed a couple screaming and cursing obscenities at each other on the sidewalk. Others must have noticed too as I later saw a police car go by to investigate. “*What in the world is going on?*” I thought. “*People have gone mad!*”

Well, that night I was sitting on the bed and scrolling through posts on Facebook with my

phone. I came across a post by a “friend” about animal abuse. As I looked at her post, I saw about 20 pictures of dogs and cats being abused and killed in various ways. So much so that I had to look away before I finished scrolling through the images because my heart just couldn’t take it. I’m sure many of you reading this have seen the same type of articles circulating. Anger stirred in me for the perpetrators of these horrible acts. Now, keep in mind, I am not a huge animal rights activist or anything like that, but I do believe all life was created by God and should be respected. Nothing should be tortured or killed without reason.

As I was scrolling through the pictures, my instant thought was of how the people committing these atrocities and having the nerve to take pictures in the process should be punished. Oh, I could think of the ways! I would like to have them “off



countrymen! These are not the morals and values we are supposed to represent!"

Once I settled down and became quiet for a few moments, the Holy Spirit began to speak to me and bring things to my attention I had been too angry to contemplate. As He spoke in whispers to my heart, I couldn't help but think, if I am hurt this much by the actions of others that I see, how much more does He hurt by what He sees?

As one thought lead to another, I thought of the things He must see on a daily basis. Cheating, lying, stealing, child abuse, human trafficking, murder, blasphemy, animal cruelty... not only does He see every act of sin committed, He sees inside the heart of those who committed the sin. How could He see so much? What a burden that must be!

My heart went from aching for animals to aching for the Lord. I soon pictured Him on the cross paying for sin; ALL sin, past, present, and future. At Calvary, He felt the weight of it. Every sin in history placed on Him at one time. My mind raced as my heart became heavy. I thought of present things, but I also thought of things in the past. I thought of people like Hitler. Just imagine every thought or image that ever ran through his twisted head hitting you all at one time. Images of war documentaries I had seen and books I had read scrolled through my memory with clarity. I didn't want to think of it! *"Lord, I can't take it,"* I said, *"I don't want to know. Lord, it's too much!"*

the record" in a cell for a few hours! My fists tightened, and my jaw clinched. Punishment! Someone needs to teach these idiots a lesson!

My initial anger soon turned to sadness. I turned the phone off and began to talk to the Lord about the events of the week as the images were now seared in my mind. Remember, at this same time there were pro-abortion marches taking place in our nation's capital, and I was just about fed up with the stupidity, ignorance, and wickedness of others.

"Heavenly Father," I spoke aloud, *"I just don't understand. How could people be so evil? What normal person would do things like this, Lord? I feel like I don't even recognize my surroundings. This is not the world I remember growing up in. What has happened to my country? What is wrong with these people? These are not my*





“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

Isaiah 53:4-5

It wasn't long before I was sobbing uncontrollably. Not for me, but for Him. I was reminded of how Jesus took ALL the sin. He bore it ALL in so much that the Father had to turn away when He was on the cross because it was just too much to see at one time. And it wasn't just Hitler's sin. It wasn't just the sin of those that abuse children or animals. It wasn't just the sin of those that march in support of abortion...it was my sin. It was my sin He had to pay for. It was my sin the Father had to turn away from.

As tears fell in a steady stream from my eyes, the actions of others really didn't matter anymore. I was no longer angry. I was saddened by the pain and hurt I had caused, and I was thankful He loved me in spite of my sin. The conversation with the Lord that began in anger turned into thankfulness and then a prayer, not only for others, but also for myself. I didn't want to be the one to bring Him any more pain.

What about you? Take a little time to think and pray about it. Have you done things, or even worse, are you still doing things that bring Him pain today? Sure, we all fail and fall from time to time, but we should strive to make those times few and far between being ever-mindful of the pain we cause the One who loves us most.



Mrs. Tiffany W. Johnson works full-time as a Registered Nurse and serves as Editor of PathPointe Magazine. She and her family reside in Snow Hill, NC.



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And Finally...



Book Lover's Day...

One of my favorite books is *The Power of a Praying Wife* by Stormie Omarian. I read this one when I was a baby Christian and a full-grown wife. It is full of useful illustrations, scriptures, and ideas on how powerful the prayers of a wife for her husband can be. Stormie reminds women to pray specifically for their husband's leadership, fatherhood, job, and much more. I highly recommend this book to Christian wives everywhere.

P. W.

I enjoy reading Christian fiction books, and one of my favorite authors is Francine Rivers. She's the queen of Christian fiction and everything I've read by her has been amazing. I particularly like her historical fiction books set in Biblical times. I listened through several of her series on audiobook back when I had a 45 minutes commute to work before having kids. My favorite series from her include: *A Lineage of Grace: Five Stories of Unlikely Women Who Changed Eternity* (5 book series), *Mark of the Lion* (3 book series), and *Sons of Encouragement: Five Stories of Faithful Men Who Changed Eternity* (5 book series).

J. D.

The Chiveis Trilogy by Bryan Liftin is a wonderful Christian fiction series. If you are a fantasy fan (like my husband and I) then you need to read through this fantastic trilogy. It's one of the deeper Christian fiction series I have read, and it will really get you thinking about sin, salvation, and the Word of God!

A. M.

I love the book *Nate Saint – On a Wing and a Prayer* by Geoff and Janet Benge. As part of the “Christian Heroes: Then & Now” series, this book takes me into another world. It is a great book to read along with your children to learn about a man whose love for flying enabled him to take the Gospel (and other preachers) to the Auca tribe in Ecuador. The book tells the story of the five men who were killed on Palm Beach as they attempted to befriend the Aucas. Focusing on Nate Saint, the book tells of his bravery and unending love for God, and his need to get the Gospel to these Stone-Aged people. The book ends appropriately with some words from Revelation 2:10 “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

R. P.

“Clergy Appreciation”

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of “And Finally...”

October is Clergy Appreciation Month! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about your pastor or other clergy member. The deadline for submission is August 15th, 2017.

You can send an email to: Attn: PathPointe
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