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# PathPointe

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# contents

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October 2025

- Page 2            **My Sunday Best**  
*Dr. T. D. Worthington*
- Page 6            **Radio Bits**  
*Your Christian Superstations!*
- Page 8            **“No” Is Not Just For Kids!**  
*Dr. Sherry Worthington*
- Page 10           **The Anointing**  
*Dr. Glenn Mills*
- Page 12           **AfterGlow**  
*Mrs. Connie Peters*

President and Publisher: Dr. T. D. Worthington  
Editor: Tiffany W. Johnson  
Advertising Director: Jeremy Worthington  
Contributors: Glenn Mills, Tiffany Johnson,  
Connie Peters, and Sherry Worthington  
PathPointe Magazine  
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*“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:”*  
**Hebrews 12:28**

I have numerous concerns about the changes the modern church has undergone over the past 50 years. For example, the architecture has undergone a significant transformation. Isn't it interesting that on our Christmas cards, we still prefer images of old-fashioned churches? I'm not against the new look. I'm just saying that things have changed. Technology has also advanced. Most churches today are equipped with technology to enhance the engagement of their worship services. The music has drastically changed, and the Bibles most churches use are constantly being revised.

I can imagine if my granddad came back and visited one of our modern churches, he would be in a state of shock. It might be hard to predict

what would shock him the most, but one of the things he would immediately notice is the change in what people wear. I don't just mean the natural changes in style over 70 years. What I mean is that for many people, there is no difference between how they dress at church and how they dress any place else. Additionally, even if someone has to wear a suit or uniform to work, they often don't dress up when they go to church.

There was once something called your “*Sunday best*,” and these were your special clothes that you kept reserved for special occasions, like going to church. Today, tank tops, tights, and flip flops are not uncommon at many churches. How should one dress for church? The modern answer is to dress the way you want to. Dress cool, comfortable, and casual, regardless of the occasion. A typical response is that God doesn't care what clothes you wear, as He looks into the heart, and that's what's important. The heart is indeed essential, but

the idea that God does not care about how you dress for worship is not entirely accurate. In this old man's opinion, the growing trend of dressing down for church is not a good one.

First, let me remind you that it is a tremendous privilege of divine grace that we can begin each week by attending church to worship our Lord. What an incredible gift it is to enter into His presence. To truly appreciate our worship, however, it helps to understand a bit of its background and history. After God freed His people from Egyptian bondage, Israel was excited to meet God at Mount Sinai. But before they could come into His presence, God commanded that they consecrate themselves, wash their clothes, and stay away from the mountain. This demonstrated that God was holy and deserved respect and fear. It also showed that it mattered to Him how His people appeared before Him.

He demanded consecration. This was meant to be a break from their usual routine. We don't have many details about exactly how this consecration was to be carried out, but clothing is mentioned. They didn't have to wear different clothes, since many of them only had one set, but they did have to wash them. Since they were appearing before God, He requires holiness and respect, and this must be visible in their clothing.

This divine concern for how one appeared before God was also evident in the worship at the tabernacle and temple. There were graded levels of holiness surrounding these sanctuaries.

The priests could enter the Holy Place, but only the High Priest was allowed to go into the Holy of Holies. To approach God, they had to dress according to God's dress code. This was very detailed for the high priest. (*Exodus 28:1-39*) The ordinary priests were required to wear linen clothes that, like the high priest's, were made for "glory and beauty." (*Exodus 28:2*)

The point is, that the clothes were meant to reflect the fact that the priests were in God's presence. The importance of proper dress is emphasized by the fact that even if a priest was doing something as simple as cleaning out the ashes of the burnt offering, he had to wear the clothes that the Lord had specified for this task. (*Leviticus 6:10-11*) All of this is relevant today as we recognize the new dispensation we're in. God has now freed His people from the law. You are now also a priest, and when you worship in spirit and in truth, you join with the worship of angels and the saints of old. You come to church to join thousands upon thousands in a joyful gathering. The angels are clothed in radiant glory, the saints are dressed in white apparel, and you, well, you have on your Jack Daniels T-shirt.

But it gets even better. Because of the sprinkled blood of Christ, we as priests to God are permitted to do what only the high priest in the Old Testament could do. As we worship and call on the Lord's name, we can enter the Most Holy Place! (*Hebrews 10:19-22*) Who can fully understand and appreciate what this means? This vital truth influences the clothes we choose to wear when attending church to worship

in God's presence. If God cared about how the priests approached Him in the Old Testament, would He be less concerned today when the priestly privileges of the Most Holy Place are available to all believers? Our God remains the same. He expects us to approach Him with awe, reverence, and in our most respectful attire.

In line with the age we live in, the age of grace, God leaves the details of our dress up to us. We shouldn't need to create rules for how to dress for worship, because the Lord our God has already given us the ability to make those decisions. Most of us know how to dress for a formal wedding or funeral. Every leader in the world except Zelenskyy knows how to dress when meeting the President at the White House. We should be able to figure this out.

I know it is very easy to become unwittingly influenced by the pagan culture around us. We have this desire to fit in. But the Bible says we are to: "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God." (*Ecclesiastes 5:1*) When we enter a church, we are entering a space specifically set apart for worship. We step into the special presence of God, and the clothes we wear must reflect this profound reality. We sometimes wonder why the world has lost its respect for God; could it be that to the world, it looks like we have lost our respect for God?

It may be understandable for an unchurched person to attend without being respectfully dressed, but not for us. When we consider that even our current worldly culture values dress codes to ensure proper attire for all kinds

of occasions, even playing golf at some courses requires a particular form of dress. Let us not lose our sense of awe and wonder at being in God's presence. It is a privilege we must not take for granted. While the condition of your heart will always be more important than your outward appearance, your outward appearance still makes a statement about what is in your heart. You have been taught that God communicates His word to you in many different ways, and each of those ways is protected.

He usually communicates through the Bible, through the Holy Spirit, through His prophets, and through types and illustrations. We also communicate through various forms. We might do it with our words, our writing, the places we visit, and our general attitudes and ethics. However, we also communicate through our appearance. Our Sunday best was often a reflection, a physical sign of the inner preparation we had made before entering worship. It also showed respect for God and reverence for the sacredness of the worship service. I understand that we must avoid legalism. We also



need to create a welcoming environment where everyone can feel comfortable, regardless of their attire. However, we can also go too far in the wrong direction.

Some might remind us that the Bible teaches us that during this dispensation, every day is holy. We are taught that we should honor God every day. Sunday is no more sacred than Monday or Tuesday. The New Testament also teaches us that every place is holy. (*John 4:21, 23-24*) So, if every day, every place, and even every hour is sacred to the Christian, does that mean being at church is no different from being at a ball game? No, I don't think it is at all. In fact, I believe for most of us, the hours we spend at church are the most holy moments of the week.

First, it is a command to attend church. (*Hebrews 10:25*) God didn't command you to go to school or to the restaurant after church. He doesn't command you to go to Disney World, but He does command you to be at church.

Second, the church is the best place to surround yourself with champions. It is a powerful environment filled with influential people. I dress up out of respect for God, but also out of respect for other people I wish to honor.

Third, this is a place where Jesus has promised to join us in a most profound way.

So, if this is the most holy hour of the week, then do you suppose God has some guidelines for our behavior while we are here? I think so. Acceptable worship is

accompanied by reverence and fear, with respect and awe. Our modern generation has lost the heart that aligns with what this sacred hour deserves. We see this in our church leaders, the very ones who should be setting the example. They know what the Scripture says, and they understand the meaning of the words. They just don't apply them. I believe church leaders should set the tone and guide the church away from casual worship toward something more honoring and fitting for the holiest hour of the week.

This cannot be fixed simply by creating rules; it should be addressed by awakening internal, heartfelt reverence. We don't outlaw the atmosphere of super-casual, entertainment-based gatherings; we just gently steer in that direction. Leaders initiated this downward spiral, and leaders must now correct it. Pastors must approach this hour with a total Godward focus. This is a moment of God-centered seriousness. People come to hear a man share a message that our souls, when not deadened by human emotions, has been craving for. Most of our people don't realize this because they've never experienced the real thing. Something deeply stabilizing, strengthening, refining, and fulfilling at the core of our being, that's what people yearn for. They have tried to fill that need with casual entertainment. They won't understand what they're missing until they are shown it over time.

Some of our readers remember the old-time Pentecostal Holiness churches. Most of them have changed now, but back then, they

were known for emphasizing modesty, humility, and the clear distinction between men and women in their dress. Although not an infallible guide, they knew that outward appearance was often a reflection of an individual's respect for God and of their inward spiritual state. Part of the problem is that pastors may be amazed at what God does, but they are no longer amazed at who He is. Everything else is secondary. He's the ultimate treasure, the primary value, the brightest hope, the one they are all willing to live for and die for.

God's grace will never seem as incredible as it should be if our people do not tremble at God's purity and holy wrath against sin. Did it bother you how Zelenskyy dressed when he met with the President? It bothered me. If it does bother you, you might consider the implications at every church service, when your Pastor tries to take you into the presence of the King of Kings. Church leaders should remind God's people that they are supernatural beings. Church is not a place for ordinary folks to gather for business or entertainment. Instead, it is a place where blood-washed, supernatural beings come together to worship the King. Once we grasp this, I believe God's people will be eager to encounter Him in a way that makes flip-flops seem a bit out of place.



*Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry nearly fifty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.*

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## Jesus Went About...

I think every Christian would immediately give Jesus credit for being the most outstanding teacher who ever lived. The Word of God is full of His teachings, His sayings, His sermons, and His parables. However, even as He taught, He was consciously doing something in addition to that. He was doing something that required a lot of effort, so He must have considered it essential.

**Matthew 4:23** says, *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”*

In short, not only did our Lord teach great lessons and work great

miracles, but He also extensively traveled to meet the needs of the people and fulfill His mission.

All you have to do is look at a map, and you will see that the land of Israel is a small place. The whole country is only 8,500 square miles, roughly the size of the state of New Jersey. According to the New Testament, Jesus walked and preached mainly in the regions of Galilee and Judea. It has been suggested that our Lord walked a little over 3,000 miles during His earthly ministry.

Then we have this verse. It is like an echo from chapter 4: *“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”*

**Matthew 9:35**

Here it is. Repeated yet again, as if to remind us of the extraordinary efforts our Lord made to reach the people. When we speak of salvation, we often refer to it as *“coming to Christ.”* However, it

has always been Christ coming to us. It seems as if one of the things Christ was most anxious to do was to go to the people and intersect their lives at the point of their greatest need.

That is also the commission He left for us; *“to go into all the world.”* Of course, He has made it much easier for us to share the message of hope. We have so many tools to help us accomplish the task, and one of those tools is radio.

We invite you to join us in cherishing the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the great work and magnificent privilege of sharing the love of Christ with folks near and far. Please support our **Fall Share-A-Thon**.

For Additional Information:

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# Ready and Waiting...

Schedules change, but the purpose stays the same. It's almost time for the **GoMix Fall Share-A-Thon!** Beginning Monday morning, **October 6th**, we'll be kicking things off in **Studio A** at **GoMix Christian Radio** to raise the funds for **GoMix** to continue to provide great Christian programming all throughout Eastern North Carolina, Southside Virginia, and on our global internet streaming outlets.

We are looking forward to hearing from listeners from all over the world as we anticipate reaching our goal of \$275,000. Our schedule will be a little bit different

this time around, as we'll be operating five days a week, Monday through Friday, with breaks during the day from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This will give not only our staff, but also our listeners, a little bit of a mid-day break.

If you haven't done so yet, please consider giving your gift ahead of time by mailing in your **Pre Share-A-Thon Contribution Card** or by giving online at **www.givegomix.org**. We're looking forward to hearing from you and seeing all the ways our Lord will meet our needs.



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# “NO”

## *Is Not Just For Kids!*

*Dr. Sherry Worthington*



Most of us have special children in our lives, whether it is our personal family or a child in our church or neighborhood. Children have a way of making us smile as well as frown. We come across children everywhere we go. I have laughed at something a child in the grocery store has said. It was just too cute. I have also cringed because of words I heard a child say to an adult.

What makes the difference in the lives of these children? Some children are more compliant than others, whereas other children are difficult, so parents have a battle every day. In many cases, the children are just rebellious due to a lack of discipline. They are not used to the word “no,” and they

do not receive it. The children are accustomed to talking their parents out of their decisions, or they ignore them, knowing mom or dad won't do as they say.

When we see a rebellious child, we wonder what is being done about it. I know when I see a child pitching a fit at the store, I think, *“Why doesn't his parent handle the situation?”* I can't do anything about the child in the store, but I can handle other types of rebellion.

It is easier to see rebellion in others than it is in ourselves. When I see rebellion on the highway, I complain about the crazy drivers. The horrible things I see on the news are obviously a rebellion against

God's laws. At the academy, it is my responsibility not only to love my students but also to correct acts of disobedience.

What is the difference between disobedience and rebellion? The Bible links the two together. Disobedience is an act, but when we link several acts of disobedience together, we have a spirit of rebellion. When we know something is a rule, and we deliberately disobey it, we are rebellious.

Any time we disobey God's laws or the laws of our authorities, we should immediately ask for forgiveness. The attitude of *“I am going to do what I want, and I don't*

*care if it is a rule,"* is rebellion. The idea that the rules are for others, but not me, is rebellion.

**Romans 13:1-3** states, *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:"*

Rebellion manifests itself in different ways. Disobedience, insubordination, insolence, betrayal, and disrespect to those who have authority in our lives are signs of rebellion. We expect our children to obey us and treat us with respect, but how often do we disregard the rules as adults?

Rebellion is in the heart. As adults, we think, I don't have to listen to you. If not outwardly, we say it with our actions. It is the simple things that show our attitudes toward our authorities. The seeds of rebellion start small. How many times have we stolen from our employers by being on our phones, taking a longer break, or doing other things while on the clock? What about the rules everyone else disobeys? Does that make it okay? What about the times we think in our hearts, no one is looking? We fool ourselves. Our Heavenly Father is always watching.

Parents often expect their children to obey them, but the children



observe their parents disobeying the rules. When our children hear us lie to others, yet we expect them to tell the truth, we are guilty of encouraging rebellion in our children. If we try to get the child's plate for our 13-year-old, the child sees it. We are teaching our children that it is okay to lie when it benefits us. How many of us disobey the traffic laws with our children in the car? If we don't obey the rules of our authority, why should they? When we call out sick when we are not, we have taught them that it is okay to lie if you want to go somewhere I have told you not to go. How can we criticize others for rebellion or expect obedience from those under our own authority when we pick and choose the rules we obey? We so often obey the rules we want to obey or the ones that are convenient

The hardest rebellion for us to see is the disobedience in our own hearts. My Lord deserves for me to put Him first. I let so many things get in the way. The I "wants" of my world crowd in. I truly desire to put God first, but I fail so often.

Let us stop fooling ourselves. We should look deep in our own hearts so the little foxes don't get in and grow. We cannot excuse any act of disobedience lest it grow into rebellion. We cannot grow as Christians unless we learn to examine our own hearts.

Lord, teach me to love as you love. You must increase so that I will decrease. **(John 3:30)** How do I do that, Lord? I must yield all of me to you. **(Romans 6:16)**

May each of us yield ourselves to God so we will be more like Christ. Make me like you, Lord, make me like you. Is that your prayer?



*Dr. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*



# The Anointing

Dr. Glenn Mills

Just when I thought I had heard it all, I recently heard about “grave soakers”, also known as “grave suckers”. I am told it is the act of lying across the physical grave of a deceased preacher, evangelist, prophet, Bible teacher, etc., for the purpose of “pulling out” their anointing of the Holy Spirit. This is supposedly a power that is trapped within the dead body of the anointed person. More and more are visiting the graves of great men and women of God to soak up their anointing. This is based on the idea that the special anointing God gave to one of these faithful ministers can be reclaimed by the one who lies on their grave. It is no wonder the world looks at some of the things Christians do and do not want any part of the Church.

While I truly believe in miracles and the supernatural, this is taking things a little too far. The only account I find in my studies of the anointing on someone’s dead body passing onto someone else was that of Elisha in **II Kings 13:21**. While fleeing from a band of the Moabite invaders, a group of Israelite men were going to bury a man. Instead, they decided in haste to open Elisha’s tomb and put the dead man’s body there. Upon doing so, when the man’s lifeless body touched the bones of Elisha, the man came back to life and stood up. The Bible says nothing about this man other than his coming back to life. He did not carry on the work of Elijah or Elisha. He did not become a great prophet, preacher, or teacher. What most theologians agree on is that this “miracle” was a sign to remind the King and people of Israel of the prophecy Elisha gave prior to his death, referring to Israel defeating Syria three times. So, let’s look at a few things about an anointing to better understand why it is so important.

**What is the Anointing?** The anointing is the presence and power of God in the life of a born-again believer. The

moment someone gives their life to Christ, they not only receive Jesus into their hearts, but also God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in **John 14:23**, He and the Father would make their abode (*dwelling, home, residence*) in us. Where the presence of God is, there is great power available.

**Where does the Anointing come from? “But you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you:...”**

**(Acts 1:8a.)** The anointing comes from Jesus, the Anointed One, which He gives through the Holy Spirit. It first stands to reason if one does not live (*conduct and behave*) in the Spirit, the anointing cannot flow. God sent the Holy Spirit to teach us, comfort us, and empower us. This empowering is where the anointing is at work. While others can lay hands on us, anoint us with oil, and pray with us for greater anointing, that anointing comes through a yielded relationship with the Holy Spirit. Too many people want the anointing, but not submission to the Holy Spirit. This great tool (*anointing*) comes from a continual studying of God’s Word, an intimate prayer life, a desire to serve the body of Christ, and a passion for the lost. The anointing is to empower us for service in God’s Kingdom, not entertain us in this world.

The anointing does not come from lying on graves but getting in one. What I am referring to is a dying to self-interest and self-promotion. John the Baptist said, **“He must increase, but I must decrease.”** **(John 3:30)** It is the same with the anointing of God. The more we decrease in our will and way and the more we yield to the Holy Spirit’s leading, the greater the anointing becomes. Plain and simple! God not only gives us spiritual gifts, but also the anointing (*spiritual power*) needed to operate in the gifts. The more we submit to

His voice and leading, the more powerful we become using these gifts, but all to God's glory and the benefit of others.

***Who can receive the Anointing?*** The world-changing, life-transforming, devil-defeating anointing is not reserved only for the selected, but for those who select serving God over all else. Every believer has some level of anointing just as they have a measure of faith. Our anointing will grow stronger as we choose to fully surrender to God. There is a cost that comes with living and operating in the anointing. Jesus said in **Luke 14:25-34**, that we must count the cost if we desire to follow Him. All His disciples were required to leave everything to follow Him. Not that we would be asked to leave all, but to fully follow Christ we **MUST** be willing to forsake ALL to do so. But Jesus also said our rewards in doing so would be greater than we can think or imagine. His main stipulation for being His disciple was that we first deny ourselves. (**Matthew 16:24**) Some are not willing to give what it takes to be all that God desires for them to be. I have known men and women who could have done great things for the Kingdom, but they would not give up the security of a job or leave a comfortable place to go where God wanted them to be. Some wanted material and temporary things rather than spiritual and eternal things. Everything in some way cost something, but the things we do with the Holy Spirit will always bring the greatest rewards, blessings, benefits, and satisfaction. It is up to each believer how far they are willing to go and the level of anointing they are willing to sacrifice for to have it.

***What does the Anointing do?*** The precious anointing of God through the Holy Spirit does several things. It empowers us to turn from sin and temptation. As I have said many times, the grace of God that saves us is the same grace that empowers us to turn from sin. Part of God's grace is His anointing flowing in us. The anointing helps us to love others like God loves them. This in no way means we agree with what they say or do, but that we love them beyond their faults like God loves us. It is then we will care enough for them to share Jesus with them so that they can be saved and become a child of God. Then God can clean them up to His approval. The anointing helps us pray with more determination, precision, expectancy, and faith. The Holy Spirit knows all, and He will draw us to pray, show us the needs around us, give us Scriptures to claim and proclaim God's promises, and reveal what we should pray about. Anointed prayers transform the world within us and around us.

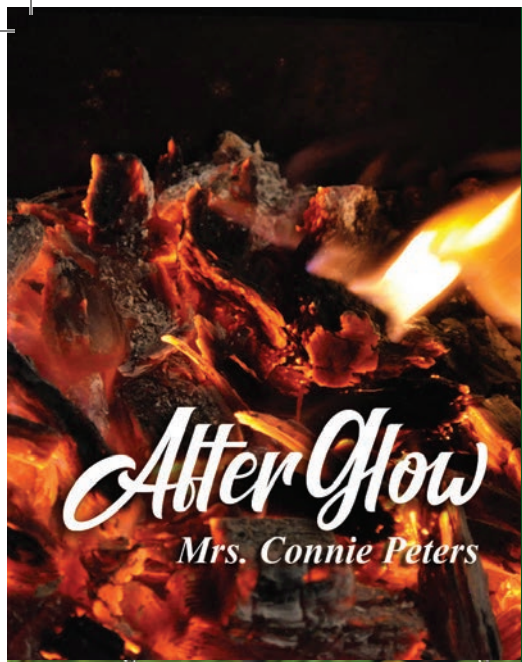
The greatest evidence of the anointing is a holy life. Holy means divinely set apart. A person living under the anointing will live in such a godly way that they will become a great witness to those who do not have a relationship with Christ. They become a walking, talking, breathing, Word of God, revealing to the world who God is. The anointing empowers the believer to produce the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Once we are maturing in the fruit of the Spirit, then the anointing empowers us to operate in the Gifts of the Spirit: Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Discerning of Spirits, Gift of Faith, Working of Miracles, Gifts of Healing, Gift of Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, and Gift of Prophecy. It is through these things God reveals His truth, power, and voice through and to men.

In **Isaiah 10:27** it says the anointing shall break the yoke, referring to the fatness that shall be around the neck. Fat in the Bible speaks of the best. The presence and power of God (*anointing*) can be so great it can break any hold the devil tries to place on us. It also allows us to minister to others and break the yokes of bondage on their lives.

Also, the anointing equips us to be the move of God in the Earth to equip the Body and bring those lost in sin to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. The anointing is a gift from God, paid for by Jesus, and administered by the Holy Spirit. It comes with much responsibility. Too many want a short-cut to the anointing. While I admire those seeking the supernatural things of God, I encourage them to ask themselves what their motive and intent is. Do we desire the anointing to glorify God, equip the Church, build the Kingdom, and reach others for Christ, or is it so we will feel and look important to others? I wholeheartedly pray every believer will grow in their anointing. But for those laying on graves to get it, I challenge you to get in that spiritual grave of self-denial, for it is then you will receive the anointing God has just for you that is unlike anyone else. Just as God anointed those who went before us, He will anoint us for the work He has called us to do.



*Dr. Glenn Mills is a long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio and a full-time Evangelist with Glenn Mills Ministries. More information is available at [www.glennmillsministries.com](http://www.glennmillsministries.com)*



# One Simple Question

When I was asked to watch four school-aged siblings for a whole day, I didn't jump at the opportunity. Don't get me wrong. These are good children, but I would have to wake up very early and shorten my morning routine to make the 45 minute drive to their house. I secretly hoped that the parents would find another suitable option. Little did I know that God wanted to use that experience to ask me a simple question. Somewhat reluctantly, I acquiesced.

As time grew closer, I planned activities to keep everyone occupied. I took a box of supplies for fun science experiments, a couple of movies to watch, and other ideas I came up with to help things to go more smoothly. Still, I was a bit apprehensive.

Apparently, the children had their own plans for what they wanted to do: riding their bikes, taking a walk to a little stream to catch and release frogs and minnows, swimming in the backyard pool, eating lunch, watching a movie, and playing games together. They behaved perfectly... no sibling arguments, no disobedience. In fact, each time I had to tell them it was time to change activities, they immediately responded with a "Yes, ma'am" and happy, immediate obedience. As I pondered how the day had gone, I was amazed at their response. I did not have to raise my voice to be heard or repeat any instructions.

As I drove back home with a sigh of relief and gratefulness for their behavior, I heard that still, small voice of our heavenly Father, "*Wouldn't it be nice if each of my children immediately obeyed my quiet voice?*" Ouch! Forgive me, Father, for waiting to obey, for avoiding obedience, for making excuses for my disobedience, and for grudgingly obeying. Help me to be more like these children in my obedience to You.

I am reminded of God's desire in **Deuteronomy 5:29**, "*O that there were such an heart in them (the Israelites), that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*" Ponder that!



*Mrs. Connie Peters has two children and resides in Princeton, NC. Now retired, she formerly served as an instructor at Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.*

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