

There Are Things Our Children Do Not Know

My children, now grown and with grown children of their own, will occasionally tell me of things I did not know. Stuff they did that I wasn't aware of. Some of it I was very aware of, but I had learned to "pick my battles" and so said nothing. Some I just refuse to believe. But there are things they do not know. For instance, they don't know the nights I laid awake waiting for the hall light to go off, or the times I prayed for their safety, or the times I checked on them, or the times when they were sick that I not only prayed but laid on the floor beside their beds, the times I was at work and only wanted to be with them, the times I worried and paced, the times I regretted my harsh words, the times I felt I was doing it all wrong, when I stuck up for them, when I was so pleased with them I wanted to burst, when I bragged about their generosity of spirit, when their talents and abilities became my proud moments and that I always loved them no matter what they had done, (I hope this last they always knew). My son questioned me recently about something he had done and why I had said nothing. Actually, I think he's been waiting over 45 years for me to yell at him, and I think that is punishment enough. I explained to him that he ended up with his leg in a cast for 6 weeks and I was so grateful that he was okay that I said nothing. I thought his lesson had been learned. We learn to forgive by being forgiven. Often, I have asked God's forgiveness for a misdeed and been forgiven and then repeated the sin. I try to learn the lesson, but my ego, personality, or attitude get in the way. But yet I am forgiven. I lay it at the cross and rejoice in the forgiveness but then life gets in the way. But yet, but yet, God continues to forgive me and walk this life with me. In the movie, "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles," John Candy is sitting in a burned-out car talking to his dead wife and he is saying, "Well honey, I did it again." We actually would have to remind God of our past sin because once it is forgiven it no longer exists. That is hard for me. God doesn't keep a scorecard. Once the sin is forgiven it is as if it never existed. God has let go of it and we have to let it go.

Our relationship with God can be like a relationship with a parent. God loves us always, forgives us always, waits for us always, and leaves the hall light on until we are safely home. He is a patient and loving God. Jesus healed the sick and forgave those that might have been unforgivable to others, and he does the same for us.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude; it is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Lord, I thank you for your mercies and that they are new every day. Be with us, strengthen us, walk with us and forgive us when we fail. Be with our church, may it be a sanctuary and a safe place for all who enter our doors. May they find a family and people who will love and encourage them on their walk with you. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

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