



“So then
faith
cometh
by
hearing
and
hearing
by the
WORD
of God.”

Romans

10:17

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July 2024



A GRANDFATHER'S WISHES

We often try to make things better for our children, but instead, we sometime make matters worse. Now, at my age, I know better. Therefore, I hope for my grandchildren and great grandchildren the following:

I want them to know about hand-me-down clothes, homemade ice cream, and leftover meat loaf. I hope they learn humility by being humiliated, and honesty by being cheated.

I hope they learn to make their own beds, mow the lawn, and wash the car. And, by the way, I hope nobody gives them a brand-new car when they are sixteen.

I hope it is necessary for them to share a bedroom with their younger brother or sister. And it will be all right to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when a younger brother or sister wants to crawl under

the covers because of fear, I hope they will be given the privilege to do so.

When going to see a movie, and a younger sibling wants to tag along, I hope he will be taken. I hope they will be privileged to live in a town where they can walk safely without fear.

On rainy days when they have to hitch a ride, I hope their chauffer doesn't have to drop them two blocks away from their destination, so they won't be seen riding with somebody as uncool as their mom.

If the boys want a slingshot, I hope their father teaches them how to make one, instead of buying one. I hope they learn to dig in the dirt and read books. And when they learn to use the computer, I hope they will also learn to add and subtract in their heads.

I hope their friends razz them when they have their first crush on a member of the opposite sex.

I hope when they talk back to their mother they will learn what Ivory soap tastes like. It will be good if they skin their knees climbing a mountain, burn their hands on the stove, and stick their tongues on a frozen flagpole.

I hope they get sick when some stupid person blows cigar smoke in their faces. And if a friend offers them a joint or any dope, I hope they are smart enough to realize he is not their friend.

I sure hope they will make time to sit on a porch with their grandpa or go fishing with their uncle. I will be glad if they feel sorrow at a funeral and the joy of holidays.

I hope their mother punishes them when they throw a baseball through a neighbor's window, and that she hugs and kisses them at Christmas time when they give her a plaster of Paris mold of their hand.

These are things I wish for my grandchildren and great grandchildren-TOUGH TIMES AND DISAPPOINTMENT, HARD WORK AND HAPPINESS!

Buck Nicholson

Thank You For Your Service!

You pledge allegiance, you salute the flag. Your heart knows America is a nation worth defending. You love your countrymen, your family and ask God's protection and blessings on you and them. You will freely lay down your life in protection for this great Nation.

We have an eternal debt to you. Our freedom is because of your bravery. A sincere Thank You goes to each, Sailor, Solider, Airman, Guardsman.

Thank you of behalf of a grateful Nation.!



Johnny the Dud

Christopher Kolker MD

Johnny was a quarterback. And he wasn't just any quarterback. Johnny was one of the most recruited high school quarterbacks in history, and all the major media outlets covered his decision of which college to go to. When Johnny decided, he told everybody there he was a team player. He loved his team, he said. He would do whatever it took to help his team win.

Johnny told the media that he wanted to be remembered as a selfless leader who gave everything he had. He put it in all of his emails. He tweeted the same thing and knew that speech word for word during all of his TV interviews.

However, behind the scenes, a different Johnny emerged. His self-proclaimed team spirit seemed to fade away. He rarely practiced outside of the formal sessions, a deviation from the norm for dedicated athletes like him.

He never really learned the plays very well. He said he liked "mixing it up" and making up things as you went along. He said that's all he needs to do. He's got this covered.

His teammates didn't care for him a whole lot. While he did his interviews and became a social media darling, everybody else worked like crazy to get better. But not Johnny.

And one day, it came crashing down. The first time that Johnny had seen quality competition in a game setting, things collapsed. The touchdowns didn't come easy. Things moved faster on the field than they ever had before.

Still, at the end of the game, he had a chance to win. They could pull off the victory if he could throw a beautiful ball to the wide receiver racing down the sideline in the game's closing seconds. But on that fateful play, Johnny threw it short. He forgot the play. He threw it to the wrong place. That was fourth down, and that was the game.

Before we condemn Johnny, remember that he is us. So many of us tell the world about how we love God and then proceed to do things we ought not to do. Or even worse, we ignore the Kingdom of Heaven altogether. We do what we want, say what we want, and act the way we want. And then, come Sunday morning, we praise our heavenly team and think that's good enough.

Faith without works is dead. *If you love God, do his commandments*, the Gospel of John (14:15) tells us. *Loving God means keeping His commandments*, John repeats in 1 John 5:3. If that love is deep and genuinely permeates your heart, you will live to practice what you preach on Sunday morning.

Reflect on this: Are you truly a team player in your faith? Or are you more like Johnny than you care to admit? This story serves as a reminder that our actions must align with our words and that true faith requires more than just empty declarations.

Are you Johnny?

A WORD FROM OUR LISTNERS

I have been in business for 27 years. Some of the things I have done were successful and others were failures. The failures are not easy to take. Now when I have a failure, I know that God's strength is with me and I will keep going and making it better. E. Harrison

I am strong in body and mind. I strive to be always fit for my life's journey. But even more important I know is my spiritual Fitness. F. Rousseau Bordeaux, France

I want the Holy Spirit to be strong in my life. I will not be controlled by sinful thoughts and I want only to think about things that please the Spirit.

I have been way down in the valley of life and it was not good. But then God never said that the life journey would be easy but he did say that it would all be worth it. L. Taylor

Always live with the willingness you have to reach out to people with the mighty WORD! C. Goulard Lyon, France

I have never been alone until my wife passed last December. There is this big hole in my life and I am having a bad time of it. Please pray for me. I need to be strong. Joe Moore Birmingham, AL

GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above

From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above

If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Chronicles 7:14