

## **Your Child Deserves**

...to hear you pray earnestly and often.  
...to go to worship and Bible classes with you faithfully.  
...to see you sacrifice for the Lord.  
...to hear you talk to others about becoming a Christian.  
...to go with you to visit the sick and bereaved.  
...to hear you praise the church and her leaders.  
...to be encouraged by you to seek and obey the truth.  
...to see you putting the Lord first in your giving.  
...to know the Christ living in you.

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## **Who's Dumb?**

Birds build their nests and rear their young, and so far as is known no bird ever tried to build more nests than its neighbor. No fox ever fretted because he had only one den; no squirrel ever died of anxiety because he had not laid up enough nuts for two or three winters ahead; and no dog ever lost sleep because he did not have sufficient bones buried in the ground for his declining years. We call them dumb?

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## **A Word of Advice**

An old evangelist was telling another man how he might improve his lifestyle. "You know," answered the wayward fellow, "I've been aiming to do that." "Well," said the preacher, "quit aiming and start shooting."

The Bible says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). This literally means to miss the mark. Honestly now, are you hitting the mark of righteousness? The life you are living today, how close are you to what God desires? Good intentions are good but no matter how good the intention is it will never replace the act itself. Good intentions will not get us to heaven! Read Matthew 7:21.

*Matt Richardson*  
*Hooker, OK*  
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## **About Purity**

How is a young person to stay pure? This is a question that David asks in Psalms 119:9. We find the answer there as well; by taking heed according to the Word of God, or through living by the Word. We must follow the rules that are found there. We must know the rules. We must share these teachings and standards with others. We must, as the Psalmist says, “write them on our hearts” in order to keep from sinning against the Lord. How pure are you? Is this something you are struggling with? If so, perhaps you need to apply the Word of God!

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## **Steadfastness!**

A Scottish shepherd dog was left to guard his master’s coat. While the master was gone he fell to his death. The dog was urged to go home yet would not leave his master’s coat for anyone, even those who tried to goad him with food. He died obeying his master’s command. Father God left us a mission, not a coat. What shall we do with this mission? If a dog can be faithful to his owner, can we not be faithful to the One Who owns us?

*Steven Clark Goad  
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## **What About Today?**

You can say a kind word. You can speak about 4800 words per day, why not devote some of them to kindness?

You can encourage someone to try again. Expressing confidence in them will provide the emotional support they need to succeed.

You can allow God to speak to you. Instead of having a “sound proof” head, spend some time in careful Bible study.

You can be great or you can remain just another insignificant human being. How to be great? Jesus said, “whoever desires to be great among you, let him be your servant” (Matthew 20:26).

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## **Stop & Drop!**

Christianity is much like an airplane: When you stop — you drop! When you stop praying, you go down. When you stop studying your Bible, you go down. When you stop attending, you go down. When you stop being involved, you go down.

No wonder Paul wrote, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

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## **Spiritual Security**

Faith is the Christian’s foundation and hope is his anchor. Death is his harbor and Christ is his pilot. Heaven is his country and all the evils of poverty, or affronts of tribunals and evil judges, of fears and sad apprehensions are but like the loud winds blowing from the right point—they make a noise but only drive us faster to the harbor. And if we do not leave the ship or jump into the sea or quit the interest in our faith or run to the false securities of this world or cut our cables or dissolve our hope or grow impatient then we can hug a wave and die in its embrace, for we are safe at sea, safer in the storm God sends us than in a calm when we are befriended by the world. So stay on board. Never jump ship. The ship of Zion is our only rescue. Thank you, Jesus.

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