

“When You Step in it, Keep on Walking”

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Ephesians 5: 5-20 The Passion Translation

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My life has changed dramatically in the past few months. My husband and I now share our quiet oasis in the country with our daughter and three, sometimes four grandsons aged 13, 9, almost 6 and 2 ½.

There have been many adjustments and compromises on everyone's part but we're learning to make it work. This includes our mostly unsocial cat that now has 2 busy little dogs in his space.

One day when I came home from being out the youngest grandson, Sammy, saw me coming in the door. He gets so excited just like a puppy dog every time he sees you.

Anyway, he came running and launched himself off the landing towards me. Having no time to think, only react, I caught him safely in my arms. And he's no lightweight. I almost fell over but was able to keep on my feet.

Then, almost immediately I saw a picture in my mind's eye of how similar it is with us and God. How God is always there, wherever we are; waiting, arms open wide, to catch us, hold us and lavish love upon us. This also got me thinking about what Jesus said about us becoming like little children.

The Passion translation puts it this way - That we need to dramatically change our way of thinking and become teachable, like a little child. Well, I've been learning lot's from the grandkids these days.

One day while waiting in the van with them I was amusing them with books read aloud on my phone, through YouTube. There was one that particularly caught my attention and I'd like to play it for you.

This is a catchy song – please feel free to sing along. Also, when they ask if Pete cried; you can respond –“Goodness No!” Let's join Pete the Cat and his white shoes...

If you have access to internet check out the song on this link.

“I Love My White Shoes” Pete the Cat. https://youtu.be/fj_z6zGQVyM

If not here is a synopsis of the song about a cat named Pete who liked to walk around in his new white shoes.

He sings: "I like my white shoes, I like my white shoes... until Pete steps in a pile of strawberries turning his shoes red.... Did Pete cry? Goodness no! He went on walking, singing, "I like my red shoes, I like my red shoes" until Pete steps in a pile of blueberries...

Did Pete cry? Goodness no! He went on singing I love my blue shoes, I love my blue shoes, until Peter steps in a big mud puddle turning his shoes brown. Did Pete cry? Goodness no!

He walked on singing "I love my brown shoes, I love my brown shoes" until Pete steps in a big puddle of water washing away all the other colours, bringing his shoes back to white. But now they were wet. Did Pete cry? Goodness no!

Pete carries on walking, singing "I love my wet shoes, I love my wet shoes"....

And the moral of the story is whatever you step in, just keep on walking and at the end you will find that it's all good!

Wow! Pete stepped in a lot of stuff! Did Pete cry? Goodness no! But you know it would have been ok if he did. Just like it's ok for us. What he did do is not let things he stepped in stop him from walking, moving forward and singing his song. And it didn't steal his joy.

This is Kingdom Living! Righteousness, peace and joy. Jesus came so that we would have life and have it more abundantly.

Jason Holmes talked at Celebrate Life a few weeks back about restarting your day when things aren't going well for you. How do you do that? The same way Pete did. Attitude. You change your perspective from an earthly one to a heavenly one. (A Kingdom one). This way we're not seeing a picture of things from a small snapshot with an earthly perspective, but seeing the picture from above, from a heavenly perspective.

We don't base our walk with God on our life experience, but rather in our faith of the truth of God's word. Scripture tells us that we're in this world, not of it. That we're seated with Christ in heavenly places.

All of us have walked through lots of stuff in our lives. When we're in this world there is no way to avoid it. Especially in this last year and half of

unprecedented times. We've been dealing with things and living in ways we never in our wildest dreams thought possible. But here we are, still here, and we've come through it so far.

So, like Pete the Cat, we keep walking along and singing our song - only for us it's better because we get to walk with Jesus. We're a part of his Kingdom. Though things may get us down at times; we, as God's kids, can run into those wide open arms and be reassured and loved and encouraged.

I've tried it the other way; running away from God, shutting down, turning off and cocooning in the darkness; and found that I just brought extra stress and suffering on myself.

It's so much easier to go directly to the source of our life. To go immediately to the one who loves us unconditionally.

It's here in God's presence that our attitude is adjusted and our perspective changes. We are Kingdom People. Let's have a Kingdom perspective.

We pray every week for God's Kingdom to come; let it come through us. We do this by hanging out with the one who cares for us so much that he gave his life for us. According to our scripture reading it says to be filled with the Spirit, singing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks.

Sing your song with thanksgiving.

AND

No matter what you step in – child of God – keep walking!

BECAUSE in the end...

It's all Good!