



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!
Helping Developing Christians Grow!
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David's Devotional

Waking Up On Christmas Morning

Our families have grown to the point that we can't get together all at once! We have to have many meeting times. There are meals at cousins' house, gift exchanges at sisters' houses, breakfast at grandmothers', and the list goes on. These are wonderful times of visiting and fun (*not to mention the coffee and the pumpkin pie!*)

I remember (*not too many years ago*) the visit that I looked forward to was from SANTA CLAUS! At our house Santa came the night before Christmas.

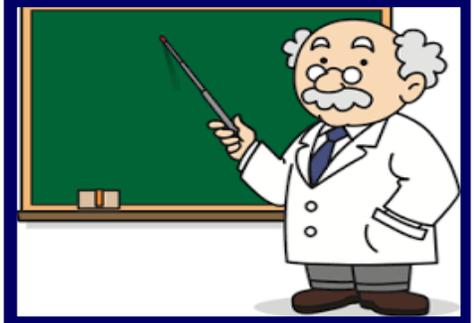
All six of us children would go to bed very early. I really don't know why. We never went to sleep early! We would just lie there in anxious anticipation of the toy that would be ours in the morning! Perhaps a "Johnny West" doll (*yes ... back then we called them "DOLLS" without shame or identity complexes!*); perhaps a fresh bag of plastic "army men"; maybe a "cap gun" with a whole roll of extra caps; and dare I say it ... a "BB gun" (*even at the risk of shooting my eye out!*).

Now, all six of us had a plan! It was simple! The first one to wake up would wake up the others! It was considered a privilege to be the first one up and wake the rest! I was that "hero" a couple of those years!

Wouldn't it be great if Christians followed that simple plan - the first one to "wake up" to the truth about Christ would tell the rest! It is a blessing to be the one who "woke up" and goes around "waking up" others!

Romans 13:11 *"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."*

David Conley



An Interesting Quote:

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Jim Elliot

"... for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."
II Corinthians 4:18 (KJV)

We struggle to get "stuff". There are so many things out there that command our attention. We want them all!

If we got the thing we want, we will want one more! If we got all the things we want in this town, we would want the stuff in the next town. The more we get, the more we want!

Yet all of this is temporary. It will not last and we cannot keep them. Why not give them away or at least use them for God's glory? We will gain a home in heaven which is something we cannot lose!

David Conley

Did You Know?

They will drop the ball in New York again this year!

Did you know that this event was started by the New York Times? They had opened their office in the Square in 1904. New York was proud of this so they named the Square "Times Square". To promote themselves they had a New Year's Eve celebration. Fireworks were set off at midnight!

To ring in 1908, they decided not to do fireworks in such an environment, so they came up with dropping the ball.

The New York Times has been dropping the ball ever since! (*In more ways than one!*)



debra showing the gift Michael got for her.

What Happened? Christmas 2022

Christmas was on Sunday this year! It was a busy day. Worshiped God at Liberty in the morning, had lunch & fun with my family in Lauderdale County, Worshiped God at Liberty in the evening, and had supper & fun with Debra's family in Colbert County!

Fun, Food, & Fellowship!

(*Now let's get ready for 2023!*)



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This isn't Poppa, but it sure reminds me of him!

Poppa Conley!

Daddy's parents, Poppa Conley & Mama Conley, lived in Blake Apartments in Sheffield, AL.

Poppa was a thin, feeble, sickly man. He carried a cane and wore Liberty Overalls. His snow white hair contrasted with his black bushy eyebrows. They looked like two caterpillars perched above his eyes. They bounced and twitched when he laughed and talked.

It was Christmas morning. We were all playing with the new toy that Santa had brought. The phone rang. Poppa Conley had just died. Daddy did not seem surprised. I had heard about death and dying. I had watched Marshall Dillon send many men to "Boot Hill", but this was the first time it happened to someone so close. I didn't know how to feel. I asked Daddy if I should stop playing with my new toy. He told me that Poppa would want me to enjoy this Christmas day. I resumed playing, but it didn't feel the same that it felt before the phone call.

We went to the funeral home for the visitation. I had to tip toe to see into the casket. There he lay. His skin was very dark. He looked like a skeleton dressed to go to church. He was so still. Even the caterpillars weren't twitching. Mama's sister, Aunt Alice, kept us kids the next day while Mama and Daddy went to Poppa's funeral. I believe Poppa was 96 years old when he died. I wished I had known him better.

Poppa left this world with everything he brought into it - nothing! It doesn't matter if we are rich or if we are poor like Poppa, we won't take it with us

I Timothy 6:7 "For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out." The key is to leave the world in better shape than we found it.

David Conley

Who Am I?



I was the third son of my father who was a great King. I was considered very handsome. My father loved me, but I was very rebellious!

I took advantage of my half sister. My father became very angry at me for this and banished me from the kingdom. After five years he allowed me to return, but I was still not allowed to have the privileges I once enjoyed.

I began to plot to overthrow my father from his throne. I knew I had to have the people on my side. Whenever people would come to the capital to receive a judgment from my father, I would convince them that I would have passed a better judgment on their behalf. It was not long until the country began to feel I would be a better leader than my father!

With the support of many people in the Kingdom I lead an attack against the capital city. My father, not willing to harm me, abandoned the city before we made our arrival. However, he was very wise! He left one of his loyal advisors in the city. He pretended to be in service to me! This advisor gave me poor advice in order to save my father. I did not realize his advice would have a bad affect on my plans and would greatly help my father so I took his advice. This proved to be the "beginning of the end" of my short-lived rebellion! When our two armies finally went to battle my father gave his General specific orders not to harm me. My hair got caught in the thick branches of the woods. I was hanging helpless. The General killed me in direct opposition to my father's order!

My father cried when he heard the news of my death! He cried my name three times,

"O my son _____, my son, my son _____,! Would God I had died for thee, O _____, my son, my son!"

Who Am I?

A Funny Thing Happened ...



The preacher heard of an Indian Chief who told his tribe to gather firewood for the winter. He told them he would go to the "great spirit" and find out what kind of winter it would be. The old Chief went to an isolated place and turned on a NOAA Weather Radio! The forecaster said it would be a cold winter. The Indian chief told his tribe to gather more wood because it was sure to be a cold winter. He went back and turned on the radio again. The forecaster said it would be worse than previously thought so the Chief told the tribe to gather even more firewood! The next day the forecaster announced that it would be the worst winter they ever had! The weather experts asked the forecaster how he knew the winter would be so bad. He said, "The Indians are gathering firewood like crazy!" The preacher recalled **Matthew 15:14** "...they be blind leaders of the blind ...!"