

In Memory of my Dad

Since my Dad's graduation into heaven, I am reminded of two things. First, the many things we should do, or the things we need to make right. I see how the world and many believers buy into the lie [even though they won't admit it] that life is really all about self. Often we use many issues, preferences and even half truths or allow events to color our vision. Many today compromise God's truth while refusing to honestly look at root issues.



You may wonder, how does this relate to my Dad? Let me try to explain. First, it is was no secret that Dad had to battle many things, many issues. Although some he did not conquer, to the best of His ability he tried. Yes, sometimes we get mired in ruts that seem to take over our lives and compel us to do things we don't want to do. Often we hide behind the facade fearing to allow any one to see the real us. One thing that stands out though, Dad never used his parents, his brothers or sisters or others as an excuse for the way he was. Nor did he use their actions whether real or imagined, as launching pad to shoot verbal darts their way.

The last months of Dad's life here, he realized in a new way his mistakes and things he should have done differently. Sadly, time ran out before he was able to accomplish all that he would have liked. Some areas I am sure he did not even know how or what steps to take. One thing for sure, Dad -- like many -- totally bought into the lie that his kids never cared about him -- just as the kids at times felt the same way about him.

One of the most important things I believe Dad gave each one of us is that in his own way he loved each one of us. I do believe if we could hear him speak today, he would be saying, "Look at my mistakes! Look at areas that I allowed to slip away uncorrected. Take a long hard look at my life, now go and change yours. You still have the time; you have the ability by God's amazing grace to go farther than I could or did".

He would say to each one of us, "Don't let time slip by for once it is gone -- you can't go back and fix it". He would look into our eyes and say, "It does not matter what is past -- rather it matters what you do from this moment of time forward".

He would say, "I believe in you -- now go and make me even prouder. Go and complete the race that God has set before you".

He would hold us firmly and whisper, "Can you hear it? Listen -- can you hear it? Can you feel it? The race is entering the final laps. Get up, get going and run the race with all that you have and know that when you cross the finishing line, I will be there with tear-filled eyes and a thankful heart, so very glad and proud you finished the race".

"Then we can say together, the end that was, was not really the end at all. For it was the beginning and truly the best is yet to come".

Roger Gamble Jr
for my dad, Roger Gamble Sr

