

Introduction:

- When I was a child...I remember how I used to sit with my grandfather, especially if his brothers were around, and they would tell stories of their lives when they were kids.
- Every time they got together, I would hear the same stories and they were always as fun as the first time. Ie. The time grandpa threw a rock and hit a bumble bee. Or the times they would go hunting with him and he would kill more rabbits with a rock than they did with a rifle.
- Their's were stories of a different time and a different life.
 - They did not have toys so they created games to play and things to do.
 - They plowed their fields with mules. They harvested their corn by hand.
 - They hunted because they were hungry and wanted to eat.
- They seemed so 'old fashioned' to me. In fact, they just seemed old. And now I am their age when they were telling stories and now, my grandkids like my stories.
- I want share with you the lives of three people, who said this phrase: "*When I was a child.*"
 - Solomon said it in Proverbs 3:4
 - The Apostle Paul 1 Cor 13:11
 - Me
- I want to share with you some stories that I hope will be memorable and that you will never forget.

I. Solomon Was Once A Child

- A. "*When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live."* (Proverbs 4:3,4, ESV)
1. Parents have the responsibility to teach their children truth.
 2. King David was the father of Solomon, and he had the responsibility to teach his Solomon truth.
- B. What did David teach Solomon?
1. Let your heart hold fast my words. Parents that is key. Keep my commandments and live.
 - a) The heart is the most intimate part of you. Parents are to teach in such a way that they reach your heart with the truth they are giving you.
 - b) Too many parents teach to reach your head and not your heart. Granted, that is very important that your head understands. ***But here is the difference. When I teach your head truth, you do have it up here but don't love it. You do not hate it, but you will not love it.
 - c) ***If your children do not love the truth they will not stand up for it. "*Let your heart hold fast my words...*"

- d) My goal as a parent/ grandparent is not only to teach you truth, like your parents are doing but to also lead you to the place you love the truth.
2. Get wisdom and get insight. Proverbs 4:5
- a) Wisdom - hokma - Heb - "Hebrew wisdom was not theoretical and speculative. It was practical, based on revealed principles of right and wrong, to be lived out in daily life." Goldberg, L. (1999). חכמה 647. In R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 283). Moody Press. What made it different from all other secular wisdom literature was it interacted with an all knowing and wise God.
- b) Insight - sakah - Heb - prosperous (Joshua 1:8). It means to have understanding so that one is successful. Joshua 1:8 meditate on the Word.
3. So David is telling Solomon to listen to his words and take them to heart. Love my words and you will be a wise man...a wise man who is successful in all his ways.
4. David goes on to say in verse 6, do not forsake her (that is turn your back on her) she will keep you; love her and she will guard you.
- a) Keep you, Heb - samar: the basic idea is to watch over with great care. "Secondly it expresses the careful attention to be paid to the obligations of a covenant, to laws, statutes, etc." Harris, R. L., Archer, G. L., Jr., & Waltke, B. K., eds. (1999). In TWOT (Theological Wordbook of the OT) (electronic ed., p. 939). Moody Press.
- b) Guard, nagar - Heb. "to watch over, to protect, to keep in view."
5. He finishes with, *"If you take care of her she will take care of you. If you lift her up in your life, she will lift you up."* PT translation 4:8
- C. Wisdom is "GOLD" in life!

II. Paul Was Once A Child

- A. *"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."* (1 Corinthians 13:12, ESV)
1. Spoke like a child. I spoke, laleo Greek - "As regards speech, it may denote sound rather than meaning. Kittle TDNT. I.E. "I hear you talking but nothing is coming out." Spoke like a child simply means without much understanding.
2. Thought like a child - the ability to comprehend.
- a) I.E. Pastor Joshua and taxes. "Dad, I just wish they would do away with taxes." Me: This road is smooth. Paid for by taxes. This beach is nice. Paid for by taxes. The sheriff keeps us safe. Paid for by taxes.
- b) Children, do not comprehend taxes or a mortgage.
3. Reasoned like a child - to conclude with thought. Reached an end.
- a) I.E. Caleb do not get up on the neighbors roof. I left, forgot something...was

- gone 30 seconds came back, only to find Caleb on the roof. Walking on roofs damages them. Children are not going to think about that because they do not understand what a new roof costs. IE. Don't put the rope in your mouth.
4. Paul is saying, *"As I grew up I began to see and understand what I could not comprehend as a child."* Taxes, shingle roofs, etc. You parents are doing the best they can with what they have to raise you to be successful. Pastor Joshua is teaching you things now that you really want to store in you heart and not forget.
- B. Now we see in a mirror dimly...but later face to face. This is what Paul is saying: "I see but I do not see as clearly as I want. I have some understanding but not like I want to have." Children are like that. IE. Mirror. They have understanding but not from a parents perspective. That is why you need to have their wisdom.
1. Children, I have a question for you—Here are some statements you may have thought but... Have you ever heard your parent say?:
 - a) "I think children should have Mountain Dew and Cake at every meal!"
 - b) "I think children should get to stay up as long as they want every night!"
 - c) "I think children should get to go where ever they want with out mom and dads permission."
 - d) Here is one: "I think children should get to eat as many doughnuts on doughnut day as they want."
 2. Any parents agree with me? NO! Why, because you see from a perspective that children cannot see from.
- C. Parents are not the bad guys in your life. This goes for teenagers too!

III. I Was A Child Once

- A. Truths I would like to share with you.
1. There is a difference between having a relationship with God and knowing about God. When you have a relationship with God three things will happen to you.
 - a) You will want to read God's word. Children need a clear "why" to do the Word. A sense of excitement about discovering truth.
 - b) You will want to talk to God more. Prayer.
 - c) Obedience to Him comes easier as I grow in relationship with Him.
 2. I thought I had a lot of time. I wish I had paid attention to what they said sooner. I did not implement the truth I heard until way later.
 3. I wish that I had been provoked/stirred to have encounters with God. To believe for supernatural things.
 4. Tithing
 - a) When I was 10, I started getting an allowance \$5 week. \$5/week meant that I need to return to God 10% or 50 cents. I did!

- b) Next day I got off the bus at school and there on the ground was a Timex watch.
 - c) Next week I tithed again, and while getting off the bus there was a \$1 bill on ground.
 - d) That proved to me there was a God and He would provide for me. I have been a tither ever since. Even when I wasn't born again, I tithed.
 - e) Malachi 3:8-12. You are under a curse because you kept what belongs to me.
- B. There was a time when I thought my parents were old fashioned. But the reality is they were, and still are, incredibly wise. In the future you will be tempted to think of your parents advise and direction as old fashioned. Don't do it. Receive it, put it into practice and it will guard you and give you life.

Conclusion:

- Wisdom does not age, but Solomon, Paul and I, do! Wisdom is to go from generation to generation. What was important when I was a child is not as important now. What wasn't important then is important now.