

Like Dandelion Dust

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV

Even though Wendy loved Rip, when he beat her she called the police. He went to prison for seven years. While he was there he got help for his alcoholism and anger. When he got out he was very thankful that Wendy was waiting for him. He said she did the right thing when she called the police. He gave her the phone number of the man who helped him in prison. He said he would help if they had problems again.

Do you have someone to call when you have problems?

Wendy said to Rip that life had been hard for her when she was growing up with her dad and that life had been hard for him when he was growing up. Both of them had learned dysfunctional behavior from a very young age. Their parents taught them wrong ways to react to problems. They had to learn the right ways to interact as adults so that they could survive as a couple and succeed in life.

Did you learn good ways to interact from your parents? Do others see good interactions in you?

Wendy confessed that she had found out that she was pregnant when Rip went to prison. She said that she didn't want to have an abortion because the baby was part of them. Even though she loved the baby very much, she allowed him to be adopted because she knew that her son would have a better life in a family that didn't have the struggles and problems that she and Rip were having.

Have you ever made a sacrifice for someone else? Has someone made a sacrifice for you?

Because Rip hadn't signed the adoption papers he and Wendy were able to gain custody of six year old Joey. Even though Wendy and Rip wanted to be parents to Joey, Rip wasn't mature enough to make a good home for him. Rip tried to manage his anger and drinking, but when he got into difficult situations both the anger and alcoholism came back into his life. This time he was willing to seek help.

Do you know someone who has problems with anger or alcohol? Will they let someone help them?

When Molly and Jack realized that they had little chance of being able to keep Joey they decided to run away, giving up everything they had to take him to another country. They wanted to protect him from being abused by Rip, but even more they wanted to keep Joey. To everyone's dismay, Molly's sister called the social worker. In the end it was the right thing to do. Running away would have ruined everything.

There are times we all want to run away when problems arise. How do you face problems?

The one thing Molly and Jack didn't do was to take their concerns to God in prayer. It didn't even occur to them that God might be working on their behalf to restore Joey to them. When Molly's sister called the social worker it kept them from making the biggest mistake of their lives.

Have you ever been tempted to make wrong decisions? Has someone helped you do what was right?

Dear Lord, we thank You for Your grace and mercy. Help us turn to You when problems arise in our lives. Forgive us for our wrong behavior. Take away our fear and anger. Fill us with trust in You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.