

# A Pear Tree Falls

Author John Claypool shares a story containing a principle that all of us should heed.

Years ago, a thunderstorm swept through southern Kentucky at the farm where Claypool's forebears have lived for six generations. In the orchard, the wind blew over an old pear tree that had been there as long as anybody could remember.

Claypool's grandfather was grieved to lose the tree on which he had climbed as a boy and whose fruit he had eaten all his life.



A neighbor came by and said, "Doc, I'm really sorry to see your pear tree blown down."

"I'm sorry, too," said the grandfather. "It was a real part of my past."

"What are you going to do?" the neighbor asked.

The grandfather paused for a moment and then said, "I'm going to pick the fruit and burn what's left."

That is the wise way to deal with many things in our past. We need to learn their lessons, enjoy their pleasures, and then go on with the present and the future.

– Beecher Hunter