

A Wise and Loving Dad

In his delightful book, *The Dance of Hope*, author William C. Frey, a bishop in the Episcopal Church, tells of a blind student named John, whom he tutored at the University of Colorado in 1951.

One day, Frey asked John how he had become blind. The sightless student described an accident that happened in his teenage years. The tragedy took not just the boy's sight but also his hope.

He told Frey, "I was bitter and angry with God for letting it happen, and I took my anger out on everyone around me. I felt that since I had no future, I wouldn't lift a finger on my own behalf. Let others wait on me. I shut my bedroom door and refused to come out except for meals."

His admission surprised Frey. The student he assisted displayed no bitterness or anger. He asked John to explain the change.

John credited his father. Weary of the pity party and ready for his son to get on with his life, the father reminded the boy of the impending winter and told him to mount the storm windows.

"Do the work before I get home or else," the dad insisted, slamming the door on the way out.

John reacted with anger. Muttering and cursing and groping all the way to the garage, he found the windows, stepladder and tools and went to work.

"They'll be sorry when I fall off my ladder and break my neck," he muttered. But he didn't fall. Little by little, he inched around the house and finished the chore.

The assignment achieved the father's goal. John reluctantly realized he could still work and began to reconstruct his life.

Years later, he learned something else about that day. When he shared this detail with Frey, his blind eyes misted.

"I later discovered that at no time during the day had my father ever been more than four or five feet from my side."

(more)

The lesson is obvious. No matter what circumstances you may be dealing with in your life – perhaps you, too, have lost hope and you're even angry with God – your life is precious to your heavenly Father. He has a plan for you.

And He is always with you.



You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter