

## *Fetching a Basket of Water*

An elderly man lived on a farm in the mountains of East Tennessee with his young grandson.

Each morning, Grandpa was up early reading from his old, worn-out Bible. His grandson, who wanted to be just like him, tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day, the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you, but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house.

The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time, the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead.



The grandfather said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather, the basket was empty again. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless."

"So, you think it is useless?" the old man said. "Look at the basket."

The boy looked at the basket, and for the first time he realized that the basket was different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean.

"Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out."

(more)

The grandfather knew that God equips us for service through Scripture.

The Apostle Paul wanted his spiritual son, young Timothy, to know the importance of Scripture:

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV).*

The Bible – God’s love letter to us – prepares us for the mission He has called us to do in Life Care and Century Park.

– Beecher Hunter