

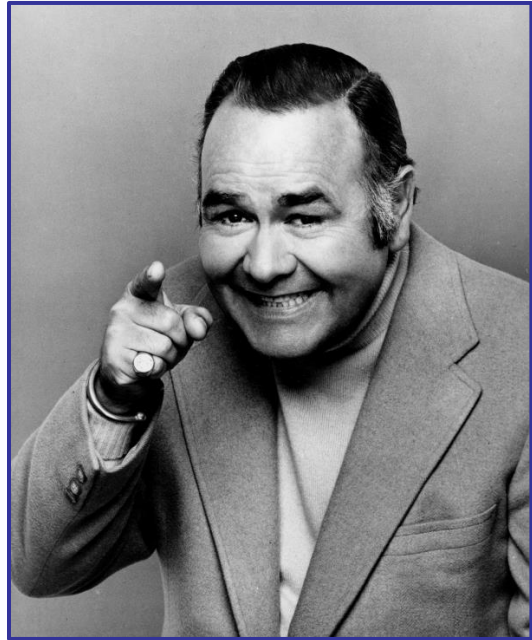
Pain Behind the Laughter

One of the most gifted comedians this country has ever produced, with side-splitting routines, was Jonathan Winters. His career began as a result of a lost wristwatch, about six or seven months after his marriage to Eileen Schauder in 1948.

The newlyweds couldn't afford to buy another one. Then Eileen read about a talent contest in which the first prize was a wristwatch. She told Jonathan to "go down and win it," and he did.

Despite his humorous look at life, however, Winters had a troubled youth. Once in an interview, he said that his life was scarred by the cruel things his parents said to him in childhood. "I'm no crybaby, but I remember things with almost total recall – there's a lot of pain there," he said. His father once told him, "You're the dumbest kid I know."

Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, refers to Winters' harsh upbringing in his book *Turning Points*.



When Winters joined the Marines and went off to the South Pacific during World War II, he felt no support from his mother. "When he came back home, he discovered that she had given away the precious, personal things he had stored in the attic," Dr. Jeremiah wrote. "He was upset, but her response was, 'How did we know you were going to live?'"

"Many people have been scarred by people's words," Dr. Jeremiah continued. "If that has happened to you, there's another voice you should hear. The Lord's words are stronger than anyone else's. He has words of love and life, words of affirmation."

As you go about your work in Life Care and Century Park today, whatever situation you may find yourself in or circumstances with which you are struggling, be assured that God loves you very much. He desires a deep and delightful relationship with you.

Don't be discouraged by the words of others. You are special in God's eyes, and you are involved in a great mission.

The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying, "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, with lovingkindness I have drawn you (Jeremiah 31:3).

– Beecher Hunter