

Spilling the Water

During one of his sermons, Hudson Taylor, British pioneer missionary to China, filled a glass with water and placed it on a table in front of him.

While he was speaking, he pounded his fist hard enough to make the water splash onto the table. He then explained, “You will come up against much trouble. But when you do, remember, only what’s in you will spill out.”

In my earlier newspaper career, and now in Life Care Centers of America, I can testify to the truth of that statement, as I have watched people in all kinds of circumstances and adversities and how they react. For some, the strength of their character – even under challenging and dreadful pressures – causes those who watch them to marvel at their grace and fortitude. For others, their ugly and often surprising reactions of defensiveness and a desire to blame others generate disappointment and disillusionment in acquaintances.



That’s worth thinking about, isn’t it? When we are mistreated or misunderstood, how do we respond? With loving words, patience and kindness? Or are we inclined to retaliate in anger?

When we live under the control of the Holy Spirit, we will show it by the way we react to the jolting trials and temptations of life.

If our hearts are full of Christ’s love, we will respond to the jostling of an unexpected trial with patience and kindness. Like a full glass of water, what’s inside of us will spill over on the outside.

– Beecher Hunter