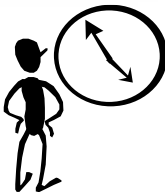


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### Time of Assembly



#### Sunday:

Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Worship	5:00 p.m.

(every other week)

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study	6:30 p. m.
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## Things My Mom Taught Me

By Dee Bowman (1934-2021)

It's hard losing your parents. You labor under the strain of not having told them more often that you love them. You remember all the things they did for you and sit and wonder if you did much for them.

I was home in Lubbock for the holidays a few years ago. Mom had insisted on making my favorite breakfast — biscuits and sawmill gravy. We had a fine time. As we drove away, she was still standing on the porch, waving. I somehow thought it might be the last time I would see her. She died the next month. She was a fine Mom. I still miss her.

When your Mom dies, something of you dies with her. It's the final cutting of the umbilical cord; there is a vacancy created by her loss that no one can fill.

I got to thinking recently about some of the things my Mom told me.

“You kids straighten up!”

Who could possibly argue with the sense of that? It means making sure of your direction, not making a wrong turn. It means looking to the end of things. It means to follow the right way every day (Matthew 16:24-26).

“Don't slam the door!”

The noise was deafening to grown-ups. More often than not, slamming the door meant we were in too big a hurry. We slam the door on opportunities and shut up what needs to be let out. “*As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all men*” (Galatians 6:10).

“Go wash your hands!”

I hated that. Me and dirt were a couple. How could you be a kid and not be friends with dirt? In spiritual terms, washing your hands is equal to cleansing from sin. We didn't

get to eat until we had done it — and done it acceptably. It is not enough to play at handwashing — in life, or in religion (Proverbs 14:12).

“You be in early!”

Teenagers are terribly repulsed by such advice. Mom knew that there were dangers involved in late-night carousing. “Nothing much good happens after midnight,” she’d say. It behooves Christians to “be in early, to know where he belongs” (Hebrews 10:15).

“You can’t have dessert until you’ve finished your meal.”

This little piece of advice provided the impetus for us to force down such unwanted delicacies as spinach, string beans, and potatoes. After all, they were the means to getting to the dessert. People today want dessert, but they don’t want to eat the stuff that’s good for them. They want salvation, but have no stomach for living right (I Peter 2:1-3).

“You better not lie to me.”

My Mom wouldn’t tolerate lying. She never spanked me for lying that I recall, but every time she caught me, she did worse. She cried. Lies, calculated to deceive and dupe, can be told in so many different ways. But lies are still lies. Excuses, self-justification, and even braggadocio are all lies. God hates lies.

“Quit talking and listen!”

When she wanted attention, that’s what she said. And we’d tune in, too. The person who has learned to let someone else control the conversation has learned true humility. “*He that hath ears to hear...*”

“You just wait until your Daddy gets home!”

Oh, how I would dread his coming. I would invite someone over, anything to keep him occupied so he might forget. I would hug him especially hard when he came home. No matter, he did his work on my britches anyhow. The Savior will come again, this time as a Judge, not a Savior. (John 14:23)

“It’s OK. I’m here!”

Storms are vicious and awesome to little boys. Loud, boisterous, frightening. West Texas thunderstorms left me feeling scared. Sometimes I’d cry. But she was always alert to my whimpering. She’d come in where we boys were huddled under the quilts and say, “It’s OK. I’m here.” Oh, what a joy is reassurance, what a comfort is found in a restored confidence. “*I will never leave thee not forsake thee.*” Hebrews 13:5 is God’s way of saying, “It’s OK. I’m here!”

“I still love you!”

I guess all little boys do things wrong. I did. And sometimes, when what I did

was of a more serious nature I'd get a spanking. I always wondered why Mom would say, "This hurts me more than it hurts you." The seat of my pants was the one on fire. I learned. She always closed the discipline by saying, "I still love you," and sometimes she'd cry. Isn't it good to know that when we have to be disciplined by the Word of God, He says, "I still love you."

I have come to appreciate the things my Mom told me. Actually, there is not one of these sayings I've not said to my own children. They may seem at the time an imposition, harsh, and demanding, but if you're a good parent, you'll say these same things to your children. They are just good advice. For all time.

## At What Moment in Faith?

By Terry Wane Benton

Salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:6,8). Of this, there is no controversy. The question is, "At what moment in faith does salvation or remission of sins actually become ours through faith?" Has God designated an exact moment?

The answer is very clear unless one has an agenda guided by unbelief in the word of God. Colossians 2:12 tells us that we are buried with Christ in baptism "*through faith in the operation of God.*" That means that we go down in the water with faith that God will "operate" and remove our sins. Thus, there is an exact moment in faith that salvation becomes our possession. The first case of conversions after Jesus' resurrection is given to us in Acts 2 where we see 3,000 Jews move from a state of sin and condemnation into a state of salvation. It is a case of 3,000 being saved by grace through faith, but the Holy Spirit shows us the exact moment in faith when salvation is brought into possession. Follow the text and make observations along the way.

### Acts 2:36-42

- 36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." **(Not saved yet.)**
- 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" **(No saved yet.)**
- 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." **(If they do this they can be saved.** The **when** they could have remission of sins through faith is discussed here).
- 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." **(Not saved yet.)**

(Continued from page 3)

- 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. **(Now they are saved.)**

So, God told the 3,000 exactly the moment in faith they could have remission of sins. There is no doubt that they were saved through faith. The question is at what point in faith? It was **when** their faith moved them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ **for** the remission of sins. If their faith did not move them to repent and be baptized in His name, then their faith would not have the right content and consistency.

Does just any faith claim qualify? No! The men in John 12:42 “believed” in Jesus but would not confess Him. Was **that** faith enough to save them? No! So, there must be a faith that is willing to confess Jesus, repent of sins, and be baptized in His name. Without the right content of faith, it is not the faith that saves.

There is a precise moment when we become “*united together*” with Christ. Paul clearly says it is when we are “*baptized into Him*” (Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-6). Believe what the Spirit said in Acts 2, and believe what the Spirit says in Romans 6:3-6.

"Or do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been **united together** in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."

Notice the moment in faith is precise. The 3,000 were not celebrating salvation until after baptism, not before. The Ethiopian Eunuch was not celebrating until after baptism because that is the precise moment in faith that he entered **into** Christ and was “*united together*” with Christ. This runs counter to modern denominational doctrine, but honesty demands that we accept the word of God over the ideas and doctrines of men. The Bible does tell us the precise moment when grace brings us into salvation through faith.



**The weatherman  
says, "a storm is  
coming" and  
everyone panics.  
The preacher says,  
"Jesus is coming"  
and no one cares.**