

NOTES TO THE FAMILY

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With two toddlers we sometimes have to entice them to eat their complete meals, particularly vegetables. On this evening I decided I would bribe them with money. Although only two and three at the time, they had each began to ask for and hoard pennies. So I went to the bedroom to gather a handful of pennies from my dresser. I didn't have any pennies that day but I did find two quarters on the dresser and I put them in my pocket and went back to the dining room.

I announced that whoever finished the food on their plate first would receive a quarter, twenty-five pennies. Using the fingers of both hands I counted off twenty-five and assured them the quarter was worth twenty-five pennies. Both immediately began to raise their hands and shout to me, "Me Daddy. Me! Me! Me!" Their desire to receive the twenty-five pennies was so great that they completely stopped eating to let me know how much they desired what I was offering.

While they were insisting that they each wanted the quarter more than the other and would be the first to finish the food on their plates, my wife noticed that the quarter I had placed on the table was a recently issued State of Iowa 2004 quarter that she had not added to her collection for the boys. So she claimed it. Fortunately I had another quarter in my pocket and simply placed it on the table to replace the one confiscated by my darling.

To me it was a lesson--

I recognized that too often I had majored in convincing God of my desire or need, in some instances my worthiness, to have what was sought. The word of God tells us what to do to receive all that God has provided for us. Yet, rather than follow clear guidance found in Scriptures I have rehearsed the problem before God along with my desire for deliverance.

And I have allowed Satan to clutter my mind with possible solutions to the problem. Rising early for the prayer and praise twisted to problem identification, clarification, and solving efforts; each new solution commanding a place of dominance in my thoughts throughout the day, garnering just enough success to keep me focused on my own efforts, and so busy with my efforts I have ignored the "Praise Solution"¹ that contains all answers.

I have since remembered that for any problem, the answer is contained in Scripture. And for any confusion about the answer, there is the name JESUS that is the power and the complete Word of God.

¹(Psalms 67:5-6 KJV) Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. {6} Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

