

when he metaphorically needs someone watching his back, he will always find me there.

Paul said of God that nothing would ever separate us from God's love. No power on heaven and earth could come against or break that bond.

My son can know the same of me. There is nothing that could ever separate him from my love. He knows he will get plenty to eat, have clothes on his back, and his every need will be attended to and provided for by his dad. He knows he can feel safe and secure, loved unconditionally and found perfect just the way he is by his dad. He will be blessed, affirmed, encouraged, and have no doubt how much I love him the way he is, simply because he is my son.

Although many days I feel wounded, vulnerable, ill-equipped, and unprepared, I will not abandon my post. I will be a better dad today because of him. I will be a better man today because of him. I will be a better follower of Christ today because of him.

Measure the depths of my strength as a dad by the depths of my love for my son. And at the end of Father's Day, as we do every day, we will go to his room where he has a giant platform swing. For however long he wants I will push him in that swing. I will sing songs over him the whole time. I will juxtapose blessings and prayers over him. Nothing will be allowed to interrupt our time together. My smartphone will be in the other room. At some point when he is ready to stop, he will make eye contact with me. That's pretty difficult for a child with autism. He will flash me this open mouthed grin, and throw his arms up to hug me. As I hold him close on his unstable legs and twisted feet, he will hug me tight, bang on my shoulders, and kiss my cheek.

Every night. No we won't do anything special or even typical for Father's Day. Then again, I am truly blessed though. I realize now that I already have the greatest gift I could ever receive. I just tucked him into bed and said, "Goodnight ..."

For me every day is Father's Day. I don't need a card or cheesy tie to prove it.

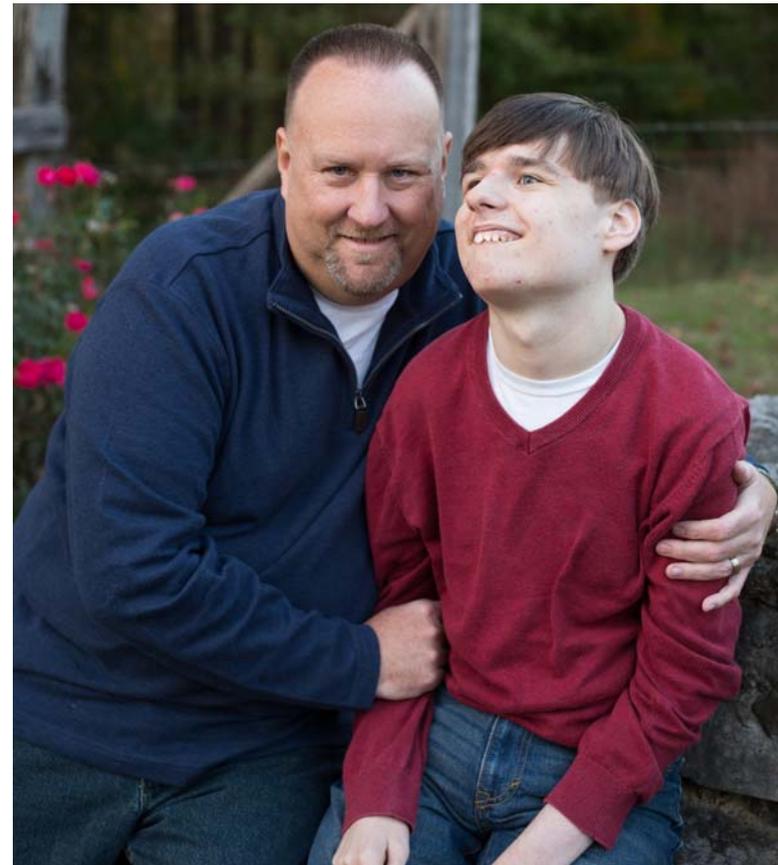
Jeff Davidson. 2015



Central Mountains Baptist Church

FATHER'S DAY, 2018

Next weekend will be my 17th Father's Day. As the dad of a child with profound special needs, my day will be anything but that of a typical dad, or a typical Father's Day. My son is totally non-verbal and so for the seventeenth consecutive year, he won't wish me Happy Father's Day. My son has limited motor skills so there will be no Happy Father's Day card for me. No breakfast in bed. No handmade gifts or presents. No going anywhere special for the day as dad and son. No Hallmark moments between father and son. No awesome planned activities just for a dad and his son. No memories will be made. No Facebook pictures will be posted. Truthfully, my son won't even know that it is Father's Day or what that even means.



But there are some things he will notice and that will resonate with him. When he gets up, he will find that his dad is still there. Not just there, but involved and engaged with him. Although he may not know or understand what the words mean, my actions alone will demonstrate how determined I am to be the warrior, protector, provider, encourager and equipper that my role as a special-needs father requires. I will be his eyes, his feet, his voice, his advocate, and his champion. And



Our Home

What I want My Child to Have When They Leave Home

(2 Peter 1:2-4) "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, {3} as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, {4} by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."



10 suggestions:

1. _____, Ephesians 6:4

(Deuteronomy 6:4-7) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! {5} "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. {6} "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. {7} "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

2. A tender _____, Ephesians 6:2-3

(Psalms 119:11) "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!"
(Hebrews 4:12) "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
(Proverbs 22:6) "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

3. A storehouse of Scriptural _____,

(Matthew 26:41) "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
(2 Timothy 3:16-17) "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

4. A confidence in _____,

(2 Corinthians 9:8) "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always

having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."
(Colossians 2:3) "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
(Jeremiah 31:3) "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."
(Numbers 23:19) "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"
(Isaiah 41:10) "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

5. A burden to _____,

(Psalms 102:18) "This will be written for the generation to come, That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD."
(Psalms 145:4) "One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts."

6. A _____ heart, Ephesians 5:25

(1 Corinthians 13:4-5) "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; {5} does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, ..;"
(Philippians 2:5) "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,"
(Philippians 2:8) "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

7. A good _____,

(2 Thessalonians 3:10) ".. If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."
(Colossians 3:22) "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God."

8. Life _____, Ephesians 6:4, 2 Timothy 3:16

9. A _____ to be the _____ of parent discussed today, Ephesians 6:4

10. A _____ to _____ God more than they want to _____,

(1 Corinthians 10:31) "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
(Psalms 16:11) "You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."
(Revelation 4:10-11) "the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: {11} "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honour and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

