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## **Bicycle Lessons (July 2002)**

We have been blessed with three wonderful children. A daughter and two sons. How quickly they grow. It seems one day they are asking where birds come from and the next thing you know they're grown and leaving the home for college.

There are so many things we must teach our children. Some of the skills are important at a certain stage of development and some are needed for the rest of their lives. I remember well teaching each one of our children how to ride a "two-wheeler"... a bicycle. Our daughter, being the oldest, was the first to attempt riding without the benefit of training wheels and then each of the boys in their own time faced and conquered the same challenge.

I remember those first tentative attempts that each of them made and I noticed there was always one thing common to each of them as they made their first attempts. They would begin by looking straight down at the ground beneath them and I would coach them to look up and ahead of them in the direction they wanted to go. After all, you can't navigate very well looking at your feet on the pedals. They would try and try and try again with such determination yet I noticed that right before they would fall they lowered their glance to one side or the other from their intended path and when they fell they would fall in that same direction.

Well, it didn't take long for Dad to recognize the pattern that when they were eyes up and looking forward they seemed to be doing quite well. And when their eyes dipped to the left - they would fall to the left. And when their eyes dipped to the right - they would fall to the right almost as if they were looking at their precise landing spot before the actual fall. "Keep your eyes up honey!" I would shout running along beside them. "Don't look where you don't want to go!"

Now it didn't hit me until many years later how nearly profound those words were. "Keep your eyes up", "Look ahead to where you want to go" and "Don't look where you don't want to go." I can hear my Father in heaven coaching me in the same way. And I can recognize that each time I fell down in life ~ that I first looked away from His path for me. Looking back, I shouldn't have been nearly as surprised as I was when I found myself bruised or bleeding after I fell. After all ~ I looked away from where I wanted to go and let my eyes (or pride, or flesh) lead me to the precise place where I would fall.

I can't help but wonder if most of us haven't experienced the very same thing in our own lives. He didn't plan to be so far in debt at this early age ~ but he applied for the three credit cards while he was still in college. She didn't plan on being a single mother

so young ~ but she lived a promiscuous lifestyle without understanding the consequences.

We've all stumbled many times from the path that God has chosen for us. We let our glance be diverted even if only for a moment and we've taken the fall.

Isn't it wonderful that when we dust ourselves off (come clean & repent) that we can get right back on and start pedaling. Knowing that our Father is right beside us coaching us toward the goal.

*Jeremiah's Prayer*

*<sup>23</sup> I know, O LORD, that a man's life is not his own;  
it is not for man to direct his steps.*

*<sup>24</sup> Correct me, LORD, but only with justice-not in your anger,  
lest you reduce me to nothing.*

**Thank you Lord for guiding us in the ways that we should go!**