

PASS IT ON

My daughter had a math test right after lunch on Friday. As the class was about to start, I received a text from her. One of her classmates, who knows that I am a minister, asked Coral if I would say a prayer for her before she started the test. I will be honest I was surprised to see this request. I have never had one of Coral's classmates ask me to do this before. I sent a quick "thumbs up" text back to Coral letting her know I would do so. She passed this confirmation along to her classmate.

I not only prayed for this classmate but for my daughter too because I knew she was also worried about this test. About 30 minutes later I received a text back from Coral to tell me the test was over, and it was not as hard as she thought it would be. It was then that I shared with Coral I had prayed for her as well. I was very impressed with this teenage girl asking Coral to have me say a prayer. I was equally impressed with Coral for passing along this prayer request from her friend. Obviously, I was so impressed by both of these teenagers that I decided to pass this story on as my mid-week message.

When we look at this story, Coral could have made the decision not to pass her friend's prayer request along to me. Think of some of the things that may have been missed out on if she had not done this:

- A prayer that this classmate felt she needed at that time would not have been prayed.
- A moment of showing faith in the power of prayer would have been missed.
- An opportunity to show the love of God would have been missed.
- An opportunity for God to make Himself known and real to this teenage girl by helping her with this test would have been missed.
- An opportunity for my daughter to know that I pray for her through the course of a day would have been missed.
- An opportunity for us to be uplifted in seeing faith in God on the part of two teenagers would not have been shared at this time.
- An opportunity for my daughter to see her friends are okay with the fact that her dad is a minister would not have been seen as well.

These are just some of the things that may have been missed if Coral had not passed on her classmate's prayer request. What a shame if all of these positive things did not happen all because a prayer request was not passed on. This incident got me thinking about a song we sometimes sing at church called, "It Only Takes a Spark." Thankfully you do not have to hear me sing it for you. If you are not familiar with the words let me share with you the first verse:

**It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around
Can warm up to its glowing
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You spread His love to everyone
You want to pass it on.**

The words from this hymn remind us of the powerful impact it can have when we pass on God's love to others. I hope Coral showing her love for God by passing on that prayer request warmed up her classmate's heart as she began to write her math test. Imagine for a moment if we begin to pass on our stories about when God has shown us love:

- Stories about when God has helped us through times of loss in our lives,
- Stories about when God faithfully provided for us in a moment of desperate need,
- Stories about when God's grace and power sustained us in a moment of weakness,
- Stories about a time when a prayer was clearly answered by God,
- Or stories about a time when we learned somebody was praying for us and how it made us feel.

These are all stories that reveal God's love. These are stories that need to be shared in order to allow God to touch the lives of other people who may need to hear them. Will we be that spark that starts a fire going in a person's heart to let them know much God loves them, or will we fail to light it because we did not pass it on?

We may not think our stories can be impactful on others, but God knows how much they can, and He is just waiting for us to pass them on so that He can begin to warm people's hearts by hearing them. If a teenage girl found the courage to pass on a prayer request, shouldn't we have the courage to pass on our stories that show our love for God too?

I do not know yet what marks my daughter and her classmate got on their math tests. I give them both an A+ when it comes to prayer that day. I give them the same mark for providing me with an inspiration for this week's message. I will let you decide what mark you give me.

Keep Safe and God Bless

Pastor Dean