

The Kite

When I was just a young boy I took 35 cents and went down to the little country store near our house and bought my very own kite. It was a beautiful array of red and blue colors made of paper and balsa wood. I very patiently (*well, maybe not patiently*), put together my new kite. I tied the string just the way I remembered Dad showing me (he didn't do a very good job apparently.) I went out into the field near the house and tossed my kite into the strong March winds and watched it soar and soar . . . right into the ground.

Over and over again I tried to get my kite to take flight, only to watch it crash. It was at the moment it crashed into the back of my head that I had an epiphany! When my Dad had made a kite it had a **tail**. I quickly ran back into the house and began my search. The bath towels were too heavy, and the wash cloths too small. I began searching all over the house . . . but finding nothing to work. Finally I went to the treasure trove of my parents bedroom (*by the way, in case you didn't know it parents, little boys can always find something interesting in Mom and Dad's room.*) There in my Mother's dresser drawer was the most beautiful kite tail material ever invented . . . "**stockings**"!

There were quite an array of different shades of tan and even a few brighter colors (*perhaps best left unmentioned*). Boy did they look great when I tied them all to my kite! It must have been at least ten feet long. When my kite finally took flight it soared so high I ran out of line . . . literally! I was so enthralled with my self perceived invention that I forgot to tie the string to the stick. But, boy did it fly! There went my 35 cent red and blue kite . . . with all my Mom's stockings. We never saw either of them again.

As I sit here reminiscing, I have to wonder why the tail made such a difference. Applying what little physics I learned in school, I can only assume that the tail gave the kite what it needed . . . **balance**. It kept the kite pointing the right direction.

Sometimes our life gets the same as my kite. We try and try to soar, only to fly into the ground and crash. What we need is "**balance**" to keep us pointed in the right direction. As human beings we are often driven to succeed (or, "fly" as it were), using our minds and bodies to achieve what we desire. Unfortunately, you can only go so far before you crash. The reason we all crash eventually, is because we forget that we are created as "**spiritual**" beings.

Doing things using only our minds and bodies is referred to as doing things "*in the flesh*". You can only do so much in the flesh, just like my kite could only do so much without a tail. The balance we need in life is our spiritual "kite tail" to keep us pointed in the right direction . . . up! The scriptures teach us that "**Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**" (Matthew 4:4 NIV). So, apparently God's word has something to do with our

spiritual nourishment. Just as we eat to build our bodies and study to strengthen our minds, we should learn and obey God's word to build our spiritual strength.

As we have been looking at the book of Joshua these past few weeks, let me remind you of something God told that great "spiritual" man regarding success.

The Holy Bible, New International Version. Joshua 1:7.

Jos 1:7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

Jos 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Jos 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Those words "*depart from your mouth*" mean that you should never go anywhere or do anything without them. Never let them leave you. ***To live without them is like . . . trying to fly a kite without a tail!***