

FUSION Devo: Friday, February 27, 2009

Title: Quality Time

Text: 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and with truth.”

This morning as I was driving Avery to pre-school I noticed something a little different about my 3 year old, red-headed princess. She would NOT stop running her mouth. I mean, she was wide-open. It is only about a 10-minute trip to the church pre-school, but in that 10-minutes she did not break stride one time. It was quite impressive. I could barely get a word in during her cardio workout of words. Avery spoke of the trees on the side of the road. She asked questions about the weather and if we could go to the beach this weekend. She talked about the dead bird she saw on the side of the road last week and all of the possible ways that poor bird could have met its demise. My personal favorite wasn't the scenario of accidentally flying head-first into a car or telephone pole, but the notion that the bird probably gorged itself on too many fat worms. I told her that I could relate to eating too much. She just laughed and called me “Silly Daddy.”

Then finally we reach our destination and pulled into the parking place. I hopped out and opened her door, and then something amazing happened. As I reached across Avery to unbuckle her seatbelt, she threw both of her little arms around my neck and squeezed as tight as I have ever had her squeeze. Then this little voice whispered in my ear, “I love you daddy.” I was stunned. I was amazed. I was speechless, if you can imagine that. I wish I could have just bottled that moment up forever. It dawned on me at that moment that Avery wasn't just flapping her gums all the way to school just to hear herself talk. My little girl was taking that time, of just her and me together, to express something very special to me. Avery was letting her daddy know that she loved him. And the coolest part was when she saw she had the opportunity to grab me and have me all to herself, she seized the moment and put me in a headlock. Words were not enough, but the actions she put with it made her love for me unmistakable.

How often do we seize the moments in our day to let God know how much we truly love him? How often do we even take the time to talk to God, even about the simple things like trees, birds and other stuff, but then end that conversation by throwing our arms around our Savior and Creator and saying those words “God, I love you.”? Lip-service is something that we have all really become good at. We can talk until the cows come home, but when we finally take the time to put true actions with those words, we then make ourselves very clear in how we feel about God.

Today, as you rush from place to place, head off to work, play your ballgames, lead a group of youth in a retreat, chase small children around, work on homework or whatever else you have going on, let me challenge you to do something. Take a few minutes to really speak with God about how you are, who you are and what you are dealing with. Share both the good and the bad. God loves us so much that God wants to be a part of all of it. But after we are done using our words, take a few minutes to crawl up into the comfortable and loving lap of the one who created you and let our actions show God how much we appreciate and love him. Believe me, it is an amazing experience. And God loves it too.

Something to Think About:

- When was the last time you took the opportunity to really speak with God?
- What did you share? Did you talk about the good and the bad?
- When was the last time you sincerely told God how deep your love was?
- When was the last time you really embraced God and put your love into action?

A Few Minutes with God:

God, help me move closer to the realization that you are a personal god and that you love me more than I could possibly understand. Help me to find the times in my life when I can just talk to you. Talk about all the good stuff and the bad stuff and help me understand that you are actually listening. I do love you. I love you with all my heart. I'm sorry for not saying that enough. But at this minute I am saying it loud and clear. I LOVE YOU!!! Amen.