

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY'S WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
February 13 in the year of our Lord 2019 - #776

Presence

I was 17 and in love. I had it bad. She was all I could think about. I filled a notebook with plans that I dreamed of for us. I day dreamed of running my hands over her ample curves. I had it bad.

Now she was a few years younger than me. And she was black. And she had been around the block, so to speak. But none of that mattered. I was in love!

But my Dad said, “No!”

Oh, I should tell you that “*she*” was a 1954 Packard hearse. With deep shiny black paint and a purple fuzzy interior. She was gorgeous! Round and curvaceous. With a straight 8 engine under the hood. Beautiful! She was going to be the pride & joy of the D & L Car Club. “D & L” stood for “*Doug & Larry*” and we were the only 2 members of the club. We used to cruise RT 15 looking for motorists with car trouble. We’d stop and help. When they offered to pay us something, we’d refuse and give them one of our business cards.

D & L Car Club

The gentlemen of the highway.

Tell your friends not all teenagers are bad!

Remember ... this was the 1960s and teenagers had kind of a bad reputation! Our hearse was going to be perfect! We could carry our tool boxes, jacks, extra gas cans in her fuzzy purple confines. Perfect. But my Dad said, “No!” Now my Dad was pretty easy going. Usually if we wanted something and were willing to work for it he’d go along. But he was adamant about the hearse. “No!” Doug & I had the money; we had worked out the deal with the Harrisburg funeral director who was selling the Packard. We had everything in order. But Dad said, “No!” And do you know why he said, “No!”?

He said, “*In a few months you’ll be off to college and that thing will be parked out there. And every time I look out the window I’ll feel like it is waiting for me.*”

That my friends ... is the power of Presence!

Your God loves you so very much and has promised always ... hear me! ... always to be **present** with you. If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior there is absolutely nothing that can separate you from His **Presence**. The highest high in life ... He’s with you. The lowest low of suffering & pain ... His **Presence** will never leave your side. When we understand and believe this great truth it gives us such confidence for living! Maybe I have a task before me that seems huge! Impossible! Overwhelming! The God of the entire universe is with me ... together, we can do it! Maybe I’ve just received terrible news. The death of someone dear. A health diagnosis that scares me so bad! The great Physician is with me ... His healing, comforting hand upon me! Maybe I’m under attack, feeling lonely, lost,

overwhelmed, afraid ... the Mighty One is my Defender! My Strength & Shield! Maybe I'm in a wondrous moment of joy! My Lord shares the joy like my dearest Friend! He'll never leave you, never forsake you, never abandon you, and never forget you! Ahhh dear one ... **the power of His Presence!**

*"You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of Your **Presence** and the pleasures of living with You forever."* Psalm 16:11 NLT

*"Lord, even when Your path takes me through the valley of deepest darkness, fear will never conquer me, for You already have! **You remain close to me** and lead me through it all the way. Your authority is my strength and my peace. The comfort of Your love takes away my fear. I'll never be lonely, for **You are near.**"*

Psalm 23:4 TPT

*"We know how much God loves us because we have felt His love and because we believe Him when He tells us that He loves us dearly. God is love, and anyone who lives in love is living with God and **God is living in him.**"*

1 John 4:16 LB

My dear ones, let us pause in His Presence & worship Him! He loves us so and is always, always with each of us!

Abiding in The Power of His Presence, Pastor Larry <><

(I've shared this 100% true story in many settings, but shared it first in 1991 in my sermon as Moderator of the Northern IN District Church of the Brethren District Conference. My poor Cathy was in tears, whispering, "I never knew about that woman," until I got to the punch line. Our dear friends Jim & Nancy McBride were sitting with Cathy in the service and always tease her about her reaction.)