



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 10, 2019

## PASTOR ANDY

BOTH OF THE BOYS HAD BASEBALL GAMES THIS PAST SATURDAY AND BOTH OF THEM HAD INSTANCES THAT MADE ME STEP BACK JUST A LITTLE BIT. THEY BOTH HAD SITUATIONS THAT TAKEN BY A STRANGER WOULD NOT MEAN VERY MUCH BUT BEING ABLE TO SEE THEM GROW AND DEVELOP I NOTICED IT RIGHT AWAY.

JACK WAS AT THE PLATE AND DURING THE KID-PITCH PORTION OF THE GAME JACK WAS BEAMED RIGHT IN THE FOREARM. IMMEDIATELY ALL THE PLAYERS TAKE A KNEE (A SIGN OF RESPECT I SUSPECT) AND THE COACHES RUSH OUT TO SEE IF HE IS OK. IF A PLAYER IS HIT AT THE PLATE, THEN A COACH GETS TO THROW THE REST OF THE PITCHES (AND THAT'S MY JOB). I GRABBED MY GLOVE AND WALKED OUT TO THE MOUND, AND WHILE THE COACHES WERE TENDING TO MY BOY, I YELLED OUT, "HEY. .TOUGHEN UP". HE LOOKED BACK AT ME THROUGH THE CROWD OF COACHES MENDING HIS WOUNDS WITH A LOOK OF, "I AM. I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT THEY ARE DOING". WHEN THE CROWD OF COACHES DISPERSED FROM THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT, HE STEPPED IN THE BATTER'S BOX AND THE FIRST PITCH I THREW TO HIM HE ROPED TO THE SHORTSTOP.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS CAUGHT – AND HE WAS UPSET ABOUT THAT – BUT WHAT I NOTICED WENT FAR BEYOND GETTING OUT. AT SOME POINT, WE ALL GET HIT, BUT DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO GET BACK IN THE BOX AND KEEP GOING?

NOW WITH TITUS, HE IS IN THE T-BALL LEAGUE WHICH HAS A WIDE RANGE OF AGES (3-6-YEAR OLD'S). THE SIX-YEAR OLD'S ARE THE ONES WHO CAN HIT AND DON'T NEED A TEE. THE 3-4-YEAR OLD'S ARE THE ONES WITHOUT GLOVES, GUM IN THEIR HAIR, GATORADE ALL OVER THEIR FACE, AND COVERED IN DIRT FROM LYING DOWN ON THE DIAMOND. THEN YOU HAVE THE 5-YEAR OLD'S (TITUS' AGE) WHO WANT TO PLAY, BUT STILL FIND PLANES DISTRACTING.

AT THIS CURRENT JUNCTURE IN TITUS' YOUNG PLAYING CAREER, HE IS GIVING IT HIS ALL TO MOVE HIS HEAD AND REAR IN A SYNCHRONIZED MANNER TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOAL OF GETTING THE BALL WHEN HIT AT HIM. DURING THIS GAME, HE WAS PLAYING SHORT-STOP AND A 6-YEAR OLD WAS BATTING AND DRILLED ONE RIGHT AT HIM. I WAS TAKEN BACK BY HIS QUICK RESPONSE TIME AND WAS EXCITED TO SEE HIM GET THE BALL, BUT ALAS, THE BALL TOOK A HOP AND HIT HIM RIGHT IN HIS BELLY. MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS, "WELL. .STINK", BUT THEN I SAW HIM QUICKLY PICK UP THE BALL AND TRY TO GET IT BACK TO THE COACH.

AGAIN, THE COACHES CAME OVER TO SEE IF HE WAS ALRIGHT (NOT WITH THE FANFARE OF JACK'S GAME) AND HE JUST TOLD THEM, "THAT WAS FUN".

JOSHUA 1:9 (ESV) - HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU? BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."

PHYSICAL AFFLICTIONS COME WITH AGE, BUT IT'S THE MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL ONES THAT WE MAY NOT ALWAYS BE READY FOR AND DISCOURAGEMENT CAN REALLY KNOCK US DOWN. SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO TAKE THE BLOW AND KEEP MOVING FORWARD BECAUSE SATAN WANTS TO TAKE ANOTHER SHOT AT US WHEN WE ARE DOWN. HE WANTS US TO GIVE UP A LITTLE WITH EACH HIT AND RENDER OURSELVES USELESS.

II TIMOTHY 4:7 (ESV) - I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.

SATAN WILL TAKE HIS SHOTS – IT'S NOT IF, BUT WHEN – AND WE CAN TAKE THEM BECAUSE WE KNOW GOD WILL BE WITH US WHEREVER WE GO. KEEP IN THE RACE AND RUN WITH JOY AND TAKE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO BE PLEASING TO THE LORD AMIDST THE PAIN OF SATAN.