



# SABBATH KEEPING YOUTH

A Newsletter by The Church of God International

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## The Parents' Corner

### God Stops

By Dionna Sanchez

I spend quite a bit of time in the car with my girls. And I believe that "car time" can become "bonding time" if you utilize it correctly. My girls and I rotate a variety of activities, conversations, and games while in the car - that are special and unique just to us.

One of these activities is what I call "God Stops." I found that my girls could easily immerse themselves in books, or other activities inside of the car and forget to look outside the windows. So we started searching for "God Stops."

A God Stop is something you see that either reminds you of the Lord, or shows you that God is behind it. It can be anything from a hot air balloon that can fly in the sky, seeing someone doing an "act of kindness" for someone else, a church sign, a bird's nest, or the sun rays coming through the clouds.

It really gets my girls looking out the car windows and seeing the world in a different way. They are looking for God in the world we live in - a world that can so often overlook His daily presence in our lives.

Give it a try with your kids and see what kind of "God Stops" they come up with. Learn, grow, and be inspired together as you are reminded that God is always with us.

Dionna Sanchez loves to come up with memorable ideas for her family. You can find more traditions at: [http://www.emphasis-moms.com/new\\_page\\_6.htm](http://www.emphasis-moms.com/new_page_6.htm)

Article Source: <http://www.faithwriters.com>

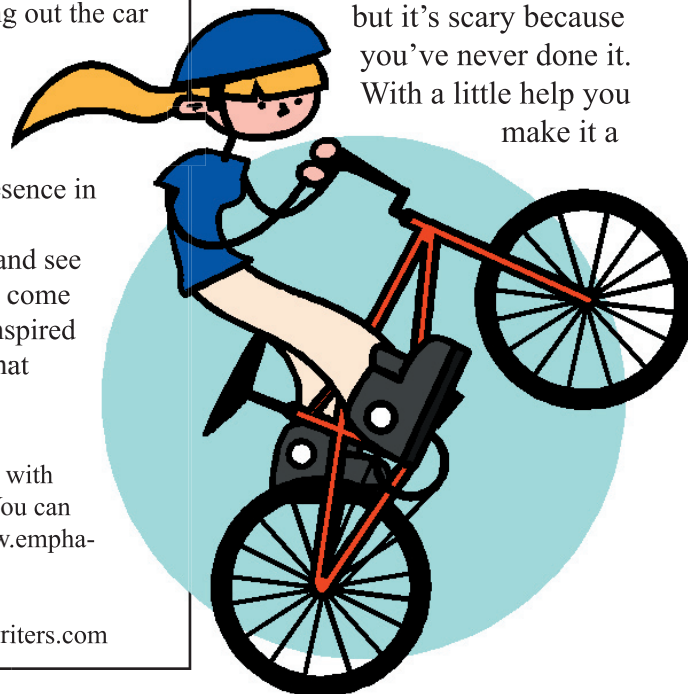
## Giant Faith

It's amazing to watch those extreme BMX riders go flying through the air! They pull off the most amazing tricks and make them look so easy. Do you realize that each of those amazing riders were little kids once who rode around on bikes with training wheels? At some point, before they could do any of those amazing tricks, they had to take off those training wheels and learn to ride just like everyone else.

Learning to ride a bike is a great picture of the kind of faith God wants you to have. When you first take off the training wheels you have no idea how in the world you're going to stay up. You want to really bad, but it's scary because you've never done it. With a little help you make it a

few feet before you crash! Then you make it down the driveway. Before you know it, you are flying down the street. That's exactly how faith works. God asks you to do something, like pray for a friend who is sad. You're not really sure and maybe a little scared. You do it, God helps your friend, and you think, wow! Then God asks you to do something else, like invite someone who doesn't have a lot of friends to your next party. You worry they won't fit in, someone else will get mad, or worse, you'll get made fun of. Regardless, you choose to have faith, you obey, and BAM! God shows up and everything goes great. Hebrews 11 is full of stories about men and women who put their faith in God and saw Him show up and do really cool things.

You may just now be taking the training wheels off when it comes to your faith. If you keep trusting and obeying God, before long you will be doing amazing things for Him as if it were no big deal at all. You'll be just like those BMX riders who make flying through the air look so simple. So ask God what he wants you to do today, have faith, obey, and He will show up!



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# P is for Perseverance

## By Chrissi Ellankoon

If I had a book of dirty Christian words, P would be for perseverance. Whenever I hear that word I cringe because I know all the connotations it brings. Living in a society of instant fixes and instant results, perseverance is slowly getting squeezed out of our character. In the world where nothing is made to last, we are asked nothing more than to give something a go and if it doesn't work or you don't like it you are free to move on. It almost seems that there is no place for perseverance or that perseverance is somehow becoming redundant, or is it?

In James 1:4 we are asked to consider it pure joy when going through trials and temptations because it is through the testing of our faith that develops perseverance. Verse four was a particular revelation for me, "Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Perseverance is not just a good idea, but also a Biblical principle. As Christians therefore we have a responsibility to ensure that perseverance does not disappear from the men and women of today or the children of tomorrow. We have a responsibility to ensure that perseverance does not succumb to its redundant fate.

As James points out, perseverance must finish its work. This is not an optional extra! James offers us no other option if we are to become mature and complete. Once the excitement of a new project has worn off, what drives us to finish it? When the honeymoon is over and you have each gained a few extra kilos and a large mortgage what keeps our marriages together? James calls us as Christians to finish what we start, he

calls us to good old-fashioned stickability. What James highlights is that if perseverance does not finish the work, then what does?

What I am seeing more and more on my journey is that as people abandon perseverance the work is not being finished. Deadlines are not being met, marriages are not lasting, renovations aren't being completed, and books remain unfinished. But what is perseverance, what is this essential trait that spurs us onto maturity and completeness?

Well if perseverance were a woman, she would be the one sitting in the corner of the office. Easy to miss at first, there is nothing to draw attention to her except the contentment on her face as she goes about her work. She is not loud or flashy but if you ask her boss, she is spoken of highly. Words such as dependable, reliable is what she is noted for. Her boss points out the asset she is to the company because she will always get the job done, and on time.

Perseverance is a loving wife as well, thirty years into the marriage she is still looking for ways to be a blessing to her husband and show him that he is loved. She has stood firm and guarded her marriage, she has settled disagreements quickly so they have had no time to fester and take root. Perseverance does life with her husband day by day, investing into their relationship.

Perseverance is a mother who lovingly walks the journey with her children. She endlessly encourages them in their pursuits and is there with compassion and support when they encounter disappointment. She can't recall how many times she has heard her son play that piece of music

on the piano. She can't count the number of times she has driven her daughter to netball and cheered from the sidelines, however perseverance will tell you that she will continue to support, encourage and teach her children for the rest of her life.

Perseverance is also the astute businesswoman, she has taken some big risks and had a couple of losses. Perseverance however cannot be held down for long. With each loss she assesses her learnings, picks up and starts again. She is not afraid of hard work, she remains determined to see her dreams come true.

Perseverance is an athlete. She trains hard and is consistent. Whether rain, hail or shine you will find her running the oval or training in the gym. With all her preparation, on the day she falls, there is no chance that she can win now, but perseverance is resolute and will complete the race she started.

Perseverance is you and I, each time we choose to rise above our circumstances and finish what we start we choose to persevere. When we feel unappreciated or just plain worn out, we keep going because we understand that perseverance must finish its work. As Christian women, let us be determined and resolute, let our lives reflect perseverance so that we can become mature, complete and lacking nothing. Let us be ambassadors for perseverance rather than its harshest critic.

Chrissi is passionate about equipping people for God's service. Her mandate is to use the Word of God to inspire and ignite the passions of others. Article Source: <http://www.faithwriters.com>



## The Story of Joash 2 Kings 11 and 12

There are many evil and wicked people in this world but it is always good people who overcome the bad. An example of this is seen in the story about the evil Queen Jezebel who was married to King Ahab.

After Solomon died, the kingdom of Israel was split in two--northern and southern. Queen Jezebel ruled the northern kingdom for sixty years. She did not worship God, instead she worshiped the pagan fertility god, Baal. Baal was thought to control the rain and the harvest. Jezebel wanted her people to worship Baal and not God so much so that she would hunt down and kill as many prophets as she could and replaced them with her own prophets.

Jezebel had a daughter Athaliah who married the king of Judah. Judah was the southern kingdom and the marriage was done to create an alliance between the northern and southern kingdoms. The king of Judah died and Athaliah's son, Ahaziah took over the throne. Within a few months, Ahaziah was killed by Jehu, Jezebel's opponent that she could never beat. Athaliah was a cruel and evil queen just like her mother Jezebel. She was so evil that she put to death all the royal children, or so she thought. "And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal" (2 Kings 11:1). She wanted to be sure she would be queen of Judah and her son's children would not get the crown. This made Athaliah very proud of herself. She bragged that as one of Baal's representatives she had gotten rid of all Judah's royal heirs. She thought this would make it impossible for God to fulfill his promise of a future Messiah from David's line. Athaliah must not have known that nothing is impossible for God, He keeps His promises. She also must

not have known her daughter very well.

Jehosheba was the daughter of Athaliah, who was very courageous and put her trust in God. "But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain. And he was with her hid in the house of the Lord six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land" (2 Kings 11:2-3). While Athaliah ruled over Judah she promoted Baal worshiping and leading the people away from God. In the meantime her daughter was hiding Joash, heir to the throne of Judah, in the temple. Jehosheba was married to the High Priest. They would teach Joash about God and His ways.

When Joash turned seven the High Priest arranged a coup and crowned Joash king of Judah. Athaliah heard about this and came screaming into the temple. No one seemed to care about the queen. She was taken and executed outside the temple and the people celebrated. They destroyed the temple of Baal and its chief priest.

Joash was a good king even as a young child. "And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him" (2 Kings 12:2). The temple had become run down while Queen Athaliah ruled. It was Joash who saw to the temple being repaired and those who worked on it were paid for their labor.

Jehosheba was a brave, courageous and faithful servant of God. Imagine the joy she must have felt when Queen Athaliah was destroyed and her nephew Joash was saved and crowned king. Jehosheba was used by God to secure the lineage of Christ. Jehosheba followed God, trusted in Him and knew He had a plan for her. We need to ask God for the courage of Jehosheba to do what is right and follow the plan God has for each of our lives.

## Joash was a King Who Did What was Right

Ahaziah was a godless \_\_\_\_\_ in Judah.

Ahaziah had a young \_\_\_\_\_ named Joash.

Ahaziah was killed after reigning only one year.

His \_\_\_\_\_, Athaliah, ordered all the royal family killed.

She wanted to become \_\_\_\_\_.

Joash was spared from death because Jehosheba, Ahaziah's \_\_\_\_\_, hid him.

He remained hidden with his \_\_\_\_\_ at the temple for six years.

When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada the \_\_\_\_\_ crowned him king.

Jehoiada tore down the temple of Baal, the false \_\_\_\_\_ that the people of Judah had been worshipping.

Joash reigned forty years and did what was right in the eyes of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Put the right character into each blank in the story:

<b>IDOL</b>	<b>MOTHER</b>	<b>QUEEN</b>
<b>KING</b>	<b>NURSE</b>	<b>SISTER</b>
<b>LORD</b>	<b>PRIEST</b>	<b>SON</b>



The instructions Jehoiada the priest gave Joash may have been similar to those Paul gave Timothy in the New Testament. Use the numbered words on the candles to find those instructions.



“Don’t \_\_\_\_\_ look \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_  
 but set an \_\_\_\_\_...”

Why is Joash remembered as a good king? Write the letter that falls between the two letters given.

V/K N/P Z/B R/T G/I    C/E H/J C/E    V/X G/I Z/B S/U    V/X Z/B R/T    Q/S H/J F/H G/I S/U    H/J M/O

S/U G/I D/F    D/F X/Z D/F R/T    N/P E/G    S/U G/I D/F    K/M N/P Q/S C/E    Z/B K/M K/M    S/U G/I D/F

X/Z D/F Z/B Q/S R/T    V/K D/F G/I N/P H/J Z/B C/E Z/B    S/U G/I D/F    O/Q Q/S H/J D/F R/T S/U

H/J M/O R/T S/U Q/S T/V B/D S/U D/F C/E    G/I H/J L/N

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