

Jerry Canfield's "Granddad advice to Grandchildren"

Prepared in handwritten form in December 2011 but typed and delivered in December 2021

To Hunter, Savannah, Peyton, Alyx, and Aaron,

1. When you greet another (individual or crowd) - stand tall, make eye contact, speak clearly with volume, and have a firm handshake.
2. Do not hold grudges; be quick to forgive; be the first to take a step towards peace. It is not reasonable to think God will forgive you, if you do not forgive others.
3. You must develop your own belief and faith in God. I encourage you and invite you to be a believer in the God who created this world. The explanations and philosophies of men to the contrary are vain and require infinitely more faith (belief without actual sight) than my faith that there is a God who created this world. [The atheistic world view compels a rational man to believe the absurd - that something came from nothing, that life spontaneously occurred for no reason, and that order developed in this world rather than disorder (contrary to the Second Law of Thermodynamics)].
4. And I encourage and beg you to be a believer in Jesus the Christ; be a life long student of the Word (Jesus and the Bible); repent and be baptized into the body of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sin [thankfully, in the ten years since this was first written, each of you have been baptized]; disciple yourselves in the way of God and Jesus; and assemble with and always pursue the fellowship of Christians in the Church. Do not forget and fail to assemble to remember the sacrifice of Jesus for you - he asked us to remember and, considering what he did for us, it is reasonable to be faithful and constant in remembering as he asked.
5. You must work to support and care for yourself, your family, and to have some left to share with others. From the first of your earnings, return a gift to God for He gave all to you. Be a giver more than a taker. In any work or play, strive to do a little more than your share - help another to carry their share. To be able to do so, you must prepare by being serious about your education.
6. Do not give up. You will sin - but be quick to repent and return to God, the Christ, and His Church. You will fail (I hope not seriously), but get up and try again and again. You will be disappointed by others - but keep your faith in God and you will be victorious. Forgive those who disappoint you. You will not always win, but you can always compete (by the rules).
7. There is a reason you are here. There is a purpose for your life. Your soul and spirit will live

an eternity. God made you and desires you spend eternity with Him. From the foundation of time, He prepared for you to be with him. Live faithfully and in that hope. [This appears to have been taken from what, during the past ten years, clearly has become my favorite scripture - II Timothy 1: 7-12.]

8. Be patient. Young men often act rashly and without prayer and care. Select a wife and a husband with prayer and conversation about your faith and eternal hope. Enter into marriage with the firm (and discussed) intention and covenant that your marriage will last through your joint lives.

9. Do not dabble in the occult - it is the way of Satan. Do not engage in pagan ways (including body cutting, piercing, and marking). Your soul will yearn for the spiritual - fulfill that yearning by seeking God - not the mystic. If you sow to the wind, it may be a whirlwind you reap. [In the past ten years, body marking has become more prevalent - don't be judgmental and do be kind (the Gospel is for all) - yet avoid these pagan practices just as you avoid other vanity in dress and personal appearance.]

10. This is God's world. Salvation comes from God. You and others have no right to change the Word of God, nor should you think you can change the terms of His grace (through which salvation comes). Be students of the Bible and don't rely on others to tell you what it says. Do not rely on the traditions of men. One religion is not as good as another; there is no love of God if you are not willing to obey Him. Do things God's way, not your own preferred way.

11. Don't be fearful. It is okay to seek adventure; it is okay to wish for and prepare for security. But regardless, true security and purposeful adventure must reside in God's ways. Your local congregation will assist with security. The world wide fellowship of the Church offers adventure and danger (and love and purpose of life).

12. Avoid foolish questions, idle gossip, and talk for the sake of talk. These create disharmony and trouble. Pursue peace. Be a listener. Listen and learn before undertaking to speak. But do not think you can sit quietly and not communicate with your spouse. Work at communicating with those close to you.

13. Rely on your Grandmother. She is good. She will help you. She will be (and is) a help to you as she is to many others, especially me. Love and respect your parents - this is natural and good. We are all people - not perfect. Forgive and love and do not dishonor your family.

14. Be good to others. Be honest and not a deceiver and liar. When life in this world is over, wealth and position will not matter (there are no pockets in burial shrouds), but your character and integrity will matter.

15. Face life relying on and doing God's ways - face death relying on the grace and purpose of God made manifest by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God.