

A LESSON OF NAILS

The story is told of a young boy who had a bad, uncontrollable temper. It got him into much trouble, embarrassing not only himself but his parents as well. He asked his father to help him in controlling his temper. The father told him to take a nail and hammer it in the wooden fence surrounding the house every time he lost his temper. Soon the boy had hammered 37 nails into that fence and had his temper under control. The wise father suggested to his son that every day he controlled his temper to pull a nail out of the wooden fence. On that 37th day the boy and his father stood looking at the fence, not a nail was left in it. Proudly the boy said to his father that he now had his temper under control.

His father pointed out all of the holes in the fence to his son. He told his son that angry words spoken against someone, though apologized for and forgiven, always leaves damaging effects in that person's life.

Let us attempt to obey Colossians 3:7-8: In thee which ye also onced walked, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. We can accomplish this task by being obedient to Colossians 3:12: Put on, therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

From the Devotional Note Book of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan