

*Romans 8 The Message Bible "But for you who welcome him, in whom He dwells-even though you still experience all the limitations of sin - you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!*

*So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!*

*This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children."*

Have you ever watched a good worker? I once had the privilege of observing an apprentice in a woodworking shop. It so happened that the apprentice was also the son of the craftsman. It was wonderful to watch the young man tackle every task he was given with zeal. He did more than accomplish a job; he honed his skills at every opportunity.

Whenever his father was showing him a new skill, he was engrossed with every movement, every tool, and every word that the father used to describe the trade that he was imparting to his son. When the son was left on his own, I would notice the father, who was doing his own work, glance in the direction of his son to see how he was doing. If the son was not doing something exactly as he was shown, the father gently guided the boy until he got it right, encouraging him all the way. At the end of the task, the father and son took a great deal of time communicating what had been learned. It was beautiful. I felt honored to even be able observe it.

The day that I was there, the son had to leave early. I watched as he cleaned up and walked out the doorway, thanking his father for what he had shared that day. The father stopped our conversation and followed his son with his eyes until he could see him no longer. Only then did he come back to me. When he did resume our conversation, his first words were: "He's a good boy. I am really blessed."

I think that our Father in heaven thinks about us like that. I don't believe He cares about how well we do at any given task. I believe that He simply wants to be with us as we enthusiastically hone our skills. I also believe that He lovingly follows us with His eyes as we go about our day like a pleased Father.

Thank you, Father, for your time with me - Jim Corbett