

Finding Balance

Dr Lois Dodds (Part 3 of 3)



I cried for 2 weeks when Catherine left home. I was grieving the loss of my precious daughter: she would never come home to live again, life would never be the same. Our family life would be changed forever. Michael too was going off to college. David had already gone and Catherine would marry Steve at the end of the term. They would never come home to live here again: life would never be the same.

Perhaps you've grieved like this too. Has your home begun to sag with the weight of grief, your nest gone empty? This was another time I thought that God had to bring me back into balance. But how do you gain balance when a big chunk of your life has just been cut off? It's like your toy top that topples over and clonks down: you can't spin anymore. I cried, and then God began to whisper to me. 'Lois, you need a new perspective, why are you crying?' 'You know Lord,' I said, 'I love my children so much, they're your gift to me, they have shaped my life. I couldn't be who I am except for them. You know we have had so many wonderful times together, now it will never be the same.' 'Lois,' God seemed to ask me, 'Why was your life with your children so good? Why are these years so precious to you?' 'Well you know Lord, I didn't want the kind of family I grew up with, I wanted a different kind of family, a different kind of marriage. You know that.' 'Yes I do, Lois,' the Lord said, 'How has it been different? Wasn't it because you asked me to help you? You trusted me to create the family that you thought was right, that would please me. Now you are crying because it was so good. You are losing what I gave you - how can you balance your perspective, what could you thank me for?'

Maybe the Lord has asked you this question too, and it was hard to answer at first, but I began to think about it and then in a flash I saw it. Yes, I'm grieving because it has been so good. God had answered my prayers, my tear-filled and fear-filled prayers of not wanting a family like I grew up in. Yes, God answered my prayer to create a new kind of family. It was because He helped me that it had been so good. Because He helped us, we had some kind of wisdom to be good parents. We got through our tearful times because we trusted in Him. We had a home for our children because we trusted in Him. He blessed our efforts trying to be obedient and faithful, he blessed my efforts of reading all I could about being a parent and trusting His word to guide me, and I began to praise God. Larry noticed my mood change in just a day. 'What's so different?' he said, and I told him how God had balanced me again, set me spinning, and I hadn't toppled over yet. I had to make life different. Yes, it would be good, and, can you believe? Now it is even better because now I have eight grandchildren and I never could have had them if life had stayed the same!