

CHRISTMAS TOY TRUCKS

Oh Lord God! Behold! You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. You are great in counsel and mighty in work, for your eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, to give

according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doing. **Jeremiah 32:17, 19**

For Christmas I bought two special stocking stuffers for my grandchildren. The tiny toy trucks were bright and festive looking with laughable clowns sitting in the driver's seats. On the side of each truck was a key to wind, so they'd perform tricks.

I couldn't resist trying them out. My husband came into the kitchen to see why I was laughing. We wound them up and placing the trucks on the kitchen counter, resulted in lots of laughter. They ran into things, flipped over backwards, turned around, got stuck and even stalled out. Joe and I played with the trucks for several days before I wrapped them for Christmas.

During this play time, the Lord used these comical little trucks to reveal a greater truth. The Lord spoke to my heart and said, "This is just what My children do! They rush full force down a path that I have not chosen for them. They hit a large immovable wall. They can't move forward. They continue to push against the wall, but to no avail. The wall doesn't move. Their ears are deaf to My warning. They become weary. They soon lose heart. Struggling with hopelessness and failure, they succumb to the powers of darkness and some even give up. They do not heed My warning signs nor do they see My hand extended toward them; My hand of help!

People who focus on the hurts of the past can't get past the walls of anger and bitterness. This is a sad truth that can turn joy into despair; it can turn their whole world upside down and the enemy pushes darkness upon them with full force. My heart grieves for my children who are caught up in these hurts of the past, for my will is to set them free and give them peace. They were not meant to live in the past, but to allow my healing to come and move on, as they remember that my plans are plans for good in their lives.

Then there are My children that, like the toy trucks, spin around and around, until they lose their sense of direction. In their state of confusion, they are lied to and deceived by the enemy. Discouraged, and dizzy from their futile efforts, they often curse Me and the day they were born. The whirlwind holds them tightly in its death grip and confusion grips their mind like a deadly vice. In their plight, My children refuse to see Me, to ask Me for direction. They remain stuck in cycles of dysfunction and spiraling downward out of control.

As the Lord was sharing these truth, I remember a woman who remained stuck in unforgiveness. In confusion, she spun round and round and seemed unable to break the cycle, as she chose to not forgive. In her view, her hurts overrode the need to forgive.

Then the Lord said, "Many of my children race head long into blind curves without a thought of consequences. They are soon flipped over backwards. They rush blindly into the ways of the world. They flirt with danger and even death in the excitement of the moment, seeking to fulfill momentary pleasures. Pride blinds their eyes. Past predicaments are quickly forgotten in their search for "quick pleasures". In My love and mercy, I send help. Yet they do not learn from their troubles nor do they heed My instructions for a better way of life. Strangely, these people falsely believe life is to be lived for the moment and to fulfill their selfish desires.

I wound the toy trucks up a few more times, but now the comparison the Lord shared with me caused sobering thoughts. Play time was over; it was time to take a good look at my own life and make needed changes. I am so thankful God reminded me how easy it is to race out of control. I need to keep my focus on Jesus. He truly does all He can to get my attention.

P RAYER

Oh Lord, do not let Your children wear out and be stopped from all that You intend us to be and accomplish.

Do not let the enemy come in and blind side us into foolish antics, until we are so weary that we cannot move forward and as our strength is depleted, we stop as the little trucks did.

Let Your children continue to keep our eyes upon You and rest in the assurance that You will guide us along our paths. At in the times when we encounter difficulties on the road, we will remember that You are with us and as we walk through them, we will grow. Amen.

How happy are those who fear the Lord all who follow his ways! You will enjoy the fruit of your labor. How happy you will be! How rich your life! Psalm 128:1-2