

**Transforming Daily**  
“. . . give good gifts . . .”  
*Matthew 7:11*

Of course this passage is a controversial passage especially in light of what is called “prosperity gospel.” The context for this passage, and for every passage like it, is according to God’s will. If it is God’s will that something come to pass, it will; if it is not, it won’t. Two significant illustrations are from the life of Paul and from the life of Jesus. Paul prayed three times asking God to remove the thorn in his flesh, God did not. His response to Paul was that His grace was sufficient. Jesus prayed that if it was His heavenly Father’s will to let the cup (pending crucifixion) pass, it was not God’s will to let the cup pass, and thankfully Jesus was crucified. The point here is that God is sovereign. However, His sovereignty is not mutually exclusive to our responsibility and privilege to ask Him our heart’s desire.

I remember when I was about 15 or 16 years old my dad came home from work with a pellet rifle for me. It wasn’t my birthday, he wasn’t drunk, I DEFINITELY DIDN’T DO ANYTHING TO DESERVE IT, but nevertheless, there he was with a pellet rifle in his hand for me. Now this was huge because my dad was not a visibly affectionate father (my siblings would say that this is a huge understatement). I can count on less than one hand, as a child, how many times he told me that he loved me (after he got saved, things obviously changed, but by then I was an adult with my own children) and those three times were probably when he was three-sheets-to-the-wind. I asked him what was the occasion and he said it was just a deal he couldn’t pass up. I grabbed it, thanked him, and went out to shoot it.

Now as time has passed by, I think the occasion had to do with my dad’s compassion for me knowing that my brother and one of my good friends had pellet rifles, but I didn’t. So when they went shooting, I was left behind. What was cool about the whole idea is that my rifle, though older than theirs, was better. You see they had to pump their model of rifle up 10 times to give it sufficient charge to kill a rat. Because mine was Co2 charged all I had to do was pull the plunger back once and I was ready to go. How they envied me . . . ! You know what the kicker was about the gift thing? I never asked my dad to buy me a pellet rifle. I don’t even remember saying anything about it to him. He just knew.

Dads, it’s a big deal to know what is going on in the lives of your children. You may not be able to buy them everything they want, and most certainly you shouldn’t! But being tuned into what they’re into is a huge deal. I’m not saying just when they’re at those cute infant and childlike ages. I’m also referring to when they are at the awkward gangly, goofy, argumentative, disagreeable, intolerable and insufferable ages as well. I will say this. If you don’t start when they’re young, you most certainly won’t be into them or what they’re into when they are older. Remember this in all of your giving, you and your time are the best gifts to give when you are moved to give good gifts.