

A Message from Pastor Travis Dean

About four months ago my son, Elijah, was given a 32-piece puzzle. At that time he had to be handed every piece and shown where it went. He would simply lock the piece into place. Over time Elijah began picking out pieces by himself and putting them together. He gradually was able to do more and more on his own. Recently Elijah has succeeded in putting the entire puzzle together by himself.

I have found it fascinating to watch Elijah's progress. He scans the pile of pieces. Certain ones catch his eye and he grabs them, locking them together. His little mind is busy. The "wheels" are turning. He solves each part of the puzzle in his mind before assembling the pieces with his hands.

I imagine that the enjoyment I get out of seeing Elijah's puzzle solving skills improve are similar to how God feels about His children as they grow in their Christian experience.

In the book of Revelation (chapters 2 & 3) Jesus gave specific messages to the seven churches in Asia Minor. He shared words of encouragement, instruction, and reproof. In Revelation 2:19 He says to the church in Thyatira, "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first." Jesus sees all the good things in His church. He takes notice of their progress and affirms them. Other people may not notice. They may even mistake our right decisions for being bad ones. But God notices the little victories each day. Every time we follow the impressions of the Holy Spirit, He makes a record of it in heaven.

In Job 1:8 and again in Job 2:3, God calls attention to Job's faithfulness. His words to Job are also for us: "Have you noticed my servant Job? There is none like him on the earth."