



“Glance Backward;
Go Forward; Gaze Upward”

Part One

Genesis 16

Summary of Today's Message

I like to use the week between Christmas and New Year's to gain some needed perspective. I usually gather together an inventory of thoughts, plans, and projects—some I've completed and many I have not.

I like to get nostalgic and recollect my life's journey so far and then think about the future, including what friends and family I need to reconnect with.

Summary of Today's Message

These exercises help me find meaning in my life's journey as I submit them for heaven's final approval. Many years ago a wise family counsellor, Norman H Wright, told me,

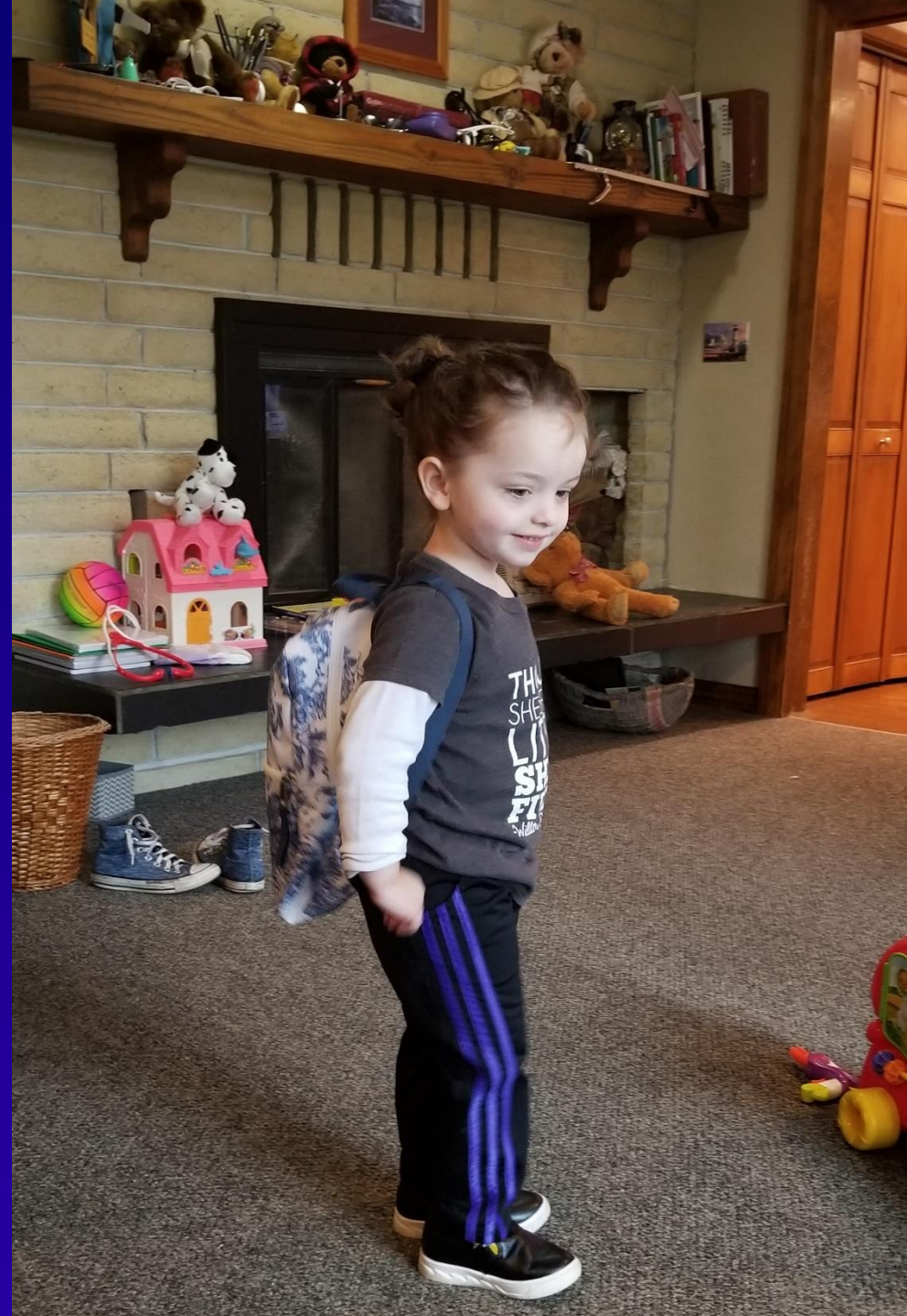
Summary of Today's Message

“Del you will become the same person you are today except for the people you meet, the books you read, the tapes you listen to, and the videos you watch.”
Learn from people who are smarter and wiser than you are was what he was saying and never stop learning.

Summary of Today's Message

Those words were spoken to me 45 years ago and
that
interaction with Norman H. Wright was a turning
point in my spiritual and character development.

Reese
starts
school
tomorrow
morning



Introduction

“I am amazed by how many individuals mess up every new day with yesterday.

They insist on bringing into today the failures of yesterday

and in doing so pollute a potentially wonderful day.”

– Gary Chapman

Introduction

There are two ways we view time: prospectively
and retrospectively

We all experience the illusion that time is moving
faster as we grow older

Counting time is not nearly as important as making
our time count

Introduction

God asks us questions, not because He doesn't know or can't remember, but as a means of stirring up contemplation that can lead to transformation

Where Have You Come From? (vv. 7-8a) Identifying Your Past

A glance backward to go forward—getting our bearings so we can make progress as we move forward

As we look back, we will inevitably see man's faithlessness and God's utter faithfulness

There are three typical perspectives used to answer the question: Where have you come from?

Physically

Emotionally

Medically

The Story of Joseph

Because Joseph was able to move past his previous difficulties, God used him in great ways

(see Genesis 45:4-8)

A Question For You Today
How Will You Answer it?

Will you allow God to be the God of where you've
come from—allowing Him to use the rubble and pain
for good?