

iChoose to Remember

Last week I shared the story of my grandfather being called from danger by a voice that sounded like his mother's. He was five years old at the time. It's his fervent testimony that he was protected that day by a ministering angel, speaking "by the power of the Holy Ghost" (2 Nephi 32:3).

In the gospel, we're taught that "unto him that receiveth I [the Lord] will give more" (2 Nephi 28:30). As shown in last week's story, my grandfather had early experience listening to the Holy Ghost. The story for this week shows another time my grandfather listened to the Spirit. This one is very impactful for me.

This story takes place on a Tuesday, couple days before Thanksgiving, at my grandparents' house. My grandparents have a wood burning furnace and they need a lot of wood to last them through the winter. That's what my dad, brother, and I were seeing to on that Tuesday, couple days before Thanksgiving.

There was a great oak tree on my grandparents' property that had been dead for a decade and that's the tree we were going to cut down.

My older brother was weakening the trunk with the chain saw while I was picking up pieces of wood that we'd already cut. The trunk was some three feet in diameter and my brother had been working on it for about ten minutes. About then my grandpa came out. I kept working, not paying much attention.

In the middle of all this, chain saw roaring, my grandpa's voice came out clear, "Josh, look out." Notice the lack of exclamation point. He didn't yell it or even push it. It was a soft but unmistakably a warning. I looked up. The fifty foot tall, century old tree shuddered. I was in its shadow. There was a sharp low Snap. By that time I was already running and the sound only served as a whip at my heels. Following the snap was a concussive crash. That was the ton of century old wood that could have been my death. Grandpa saved my life.

I bear testimony that my grandfather listened to the Spirit that day. One could argue that it was just his experience that told him that I should move. If that's what you choose to believe then that's your choice. However, I know otherwise.

The prophet Elijah found that the Lord's voice isn't one of thunder but rather "a still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12). That's what this experience taught me. Like my grandfather, when we listen the Spirit speaks in a calm yet clear voice.

"Never postpone a prompting." -Thomas S. Monson

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

-Joshua Crockett

1 Nephi 17:45; Moroni 10:5

Please submit your favorite family history story to me so that I can share it in an iChoose to Remember issue. Email your story to me at joshcrockett0101@gmail.com. I hope to get more stories than I can use! Feel free to explain the gospel principle your story demonstrates or to just send it to me on its own.