

“A Man and His Dog...and God”

This week I'd like to share some thoughts I've had over the past few years about my dog and myself, and some spiritual applications I've gleaned from our experiences. First things first - I have an 8 1/2 year old Siberian Husky named Willow, who is a rescue dog, is beautiful, friendly and really mellow.

We normally walk three different times during the day, and average around 3 miles each day. When I walk her, I use a 16' retractable leash, which gives her a measure of freedom, but with limits. When we are born again, we are in a very broad sense, spiritually “leashed” to God. He gives us free will, but like my retractable dog leash, he can set divine limits for us when we need them.

Willow is a perfect example of why dogs need to be on a leash so the extent of their freedom can be controlled. Since most of our walks are on the streets around us, I am constantly on the lookout for traffic, because she is absolutely clueless to the dangers vehicles present! So when I sense approaching traffic, I shorten the lead up to just a few feet, or sometimes make her wait.

In the same way, we, like Willow, are often clueless to the dangers around us, and God has to rein us in, or bring us to a temporary halt, which we don't always understand at the time. In the same way, I'm always on the lookout for hidden dangers along the sides of the county roads we walk - I don't want her to partake of any of the roadside “delicacies” that might harm her. God sees things in our lives He knows will tempt us to partake of, but will do us harm, so once again, He will rein us in or stop us to protect us - this is often the reason things don't seem to go our way, or happen within our human timelines, because He sees danger when we don't.

On several occasions, Willow has gotten away from me - if she sees a squirrel, a cat, or a rabbit (her favorite) the chase is on and she is long gone! (about a 1/4 mile a couple of times) So...do I simply let her go and figure if she gets hurt, dognapped, or lost she's getting what she deserves for not listening to my screams for her to come back? Heck NO! I will RUN after her because I love her and want to protect her!

Am I the only one who has ever broken that spiritual leash and run from God? So what does God do? Sometimes He will let us get ourselves into a real pickle, and suffer the consequences of our actions. But ...when we come to our senses and repent, just like the prodigal son did, He will RUN after us, because He loves us and wants to restore us! I can't speak for everyone, but as for me, I want to please my Master and obey His commands! Amen!