

- Born in 1950:
 - Until I met my wife-to-be at age 42, life was difficult; I battled anger & depression but learned a lot
- 1950's & 1960's: • 20 years in a dirt-poor, dysfunctional home, of which I have no fond memories. Still:
 - I learned the value of a dollar and hard work
 - I learned to hope that a normal, healthy family was theoretically possible
 - I learned it doesn't take money or goodness to have peace with God, just a humble faith in Jesus
- 60's: • A dysfunctional culture in turmoil with political assassinations; teenage rebellion; "sex, drugs, and rock and roll;" the Viet Nam war
 - I learned the value of determination and self-discipline
 - I learned the value of an education
- 70's: • My college years, early work life, first home, and a dysfunctional church
 - I learned that I could excel at school and on the job
 - I learned that human institutions, even the church, can be highly dysfunctional
 - I began to learn how to honor my commitments despite frustrating people and situations
 - I learned to invest finances and to take care of my own home
 - I learned that schoolyard basketball and football was more fun and interesting than TV and movies
- 80's: • Dysfunctional work environments and volunteer church youth leader
 - I began to learn the hard way how to adjust my blue-collar attitudes in a white-collar setting
 - I began to learn how to disagree without being disagreeable
 - I learned the importance of a mentor in the lives of young people
 - As a foster parent, I learned the value of training and peer support for parents
 - I learned first-hand the emotional release of forgiving my parents
 - I began to learn how to deal with periodic bouts of depression
 - My job assignments took me to Australia, New Zealand, England, and Wales
 - Able to vacation in Bahamas, Jamaica, and Hawaii
- 90's: • Fostering of troubled boys; Married to Cathy in 1994 with kids in 1997 and 2000
 - I learned about being a husband and parent; I taught classes on parenting
 - I learned the value of forgiving myself and others, and leaving my failures and regrets behind
- 00's: • Raising my family; furthering my career
 - In 2000, I had a new child, became a professional consultant, bought a new home and car
 - I learned how to pass on to my daughters what a healthy family looks like
 - I learned of the beauty of the US national parks with numerous visits
 - I developed and taught courses on leadership, technology, worldview and theology
- 10's: • Kids in school, college, and married
 - Served my local church as a vision-caster, elder, teacher, team leader, computer consultant, retiring from my IT career to serve as executive director of the church
 - In 2017 (after retiring) Developed excruciating nerve pain in face (TN) – a continuing struggle
 - I learned about reliance on God as my 11-year-old daughter went through major surgery
 - I learned to adjust my parenting style to meet the differing needs of my daughters
 - In 2017 and 2020, both daughters were married within 2 months of their 20th birthdays
 - I learned the joy of grandparenting, and to appreciate more the ability to travel cross country
 - I helped lead teams to hire pastors, rewrite vision and constitution, perform/analyze surveys
 - I learned to accept the politics inherent in churches, and manage my expectations of results
 - I learned how to be accepting of difficult people; I taught on emotional intelligence
 - I learned some moderately-effective coping mechanisms to help me deal with pain
- 2020: • A year of dysfunctional politics; rioting and cultural unrest; Covid worries and facemasks
 - Personally, a year of worsening chronic facial pain, resistant to dozens of treatment options
 - I'm learning how to "push through" pain at times, and how accept my lowered productivity
 - I learned tech tools (PowerBI, WIX, Video production) to help lead the church in new directions
 - I'm learning to trust God more, and have increased anticipation for his return