

SEEK THE LORD

“God Turns Nevers into Forevers”

I came across a list of top ten things that teenagers said they would never hear their parents say. Number ten was, “For the last time will you please turn that music up!” Number nine was, “Hey, life is one big party, don’t worry about school.” We hope they never say that. Number eight was, “Things are different today than when I was a kid. You’ve got it a lot harder.” The number seven thing that teenagers said they would never hear was, “Money does grow on trees, how much do you want?” Number six was, “I like your new hair cut and piercings.” Number five was, “Here is the key to your new Porsche.” Number four was, “Don’t bother—I will clean your room.” Number three was for when those times when a teenager is going out, “Drive as fast and crazy as you want.” We would hope this would never be said. Number two was, “Stay out all night if you want to.” Lastly, the number one thing that kids said they would never hear from their parents was, “OK, maybe I was wrong!”

The last one wasn’t funny at all. What does that say about the relationship most parents have with their teenagers? Some of the above statements we would hope never change. The last one we would hope is not permanent.

I am so glad the Christian faith teaches us about the possibilities of changing the unchangeable. Jesus even said, “What is impossible with people is possible with God.” Sometimes we feel like our problems can not be changed. We feel like the people who say, “I can never do anything right.” “The sun will never shine again.” “My hurt will never be healed.” “I will never find happiness again.”

Our lives may seem surrounded by nevers. We can be overwhelmed by hopelessness. We may feel faced by insurmountable problems. We can't reverse the downward spiral of events in our lives. Then God reminds us He is the one with the last word for our problems and it is a word of hope. God can turn our nevers into forever. There are always possibilities with God! God never paints Himself into a corner. God is the God of the second chance.

Some of those who wrote about the life of Tennessee Williams said he was a man who knew what it was like to live without hope. He died several years ago. He had lived most of his life as a lonely, frightened, despairing man. You could see that in his plays. They were plays about despair, about people who were trapped, who could never get out of their imprisonment, like Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*, his first play and possibly his best.

But later, Tennessee Williams' life changed. When he died, Dan Sullivan of the *Los Angeles Times* wrote that in his late work, he was writing on the theme of hope. He put it in a wonder phrase. He said, "He was writing about the power of violets cracking rocks."

Prayer: Our Lord, remind us of what you can do with a little time to change never into unlimited possibilities. Amen

Rev. Dan Safarik is Pastor of St. Luke United Methodist Church in Lincoln.