



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

2 Timothy 1:7-8

Spiritual Leadership

Has your dad or other parental figure ever embarrassed you? Showing your friends pictures of you when you were a baby? Telling stories from when you were growing up? Wearing their black church socks on Sunday afternoon...with SHORTS?!? Yep, that's your dad.

Has God ever given us a reason to be embarrassed or ashamed of him? Isn't it actually the other way around? We make bad choices, we break his rules, we do things that make him angry, but he still loves us and proudly calls us his. And we know he loves us because he has made us a promise through baptism that we are his truly loved and fully forgiven family members forever.

As dearly loved children of God, St. Paul encourages us, *So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord.* Proudly wear the name, child of God. They mocked the prophets because of their Father, they mocked Jesus because of his Father and there will be those who make fun of you too. But at the end of the day...he's your Dad who never has and never will fail you! He's your Dad who sent his Son to the cross for you. He's your Dad who always listens to you. He's your Dad forever in heaven.

Wear it, own it, share it. You are a child of God. Be the first among your friends to own his name. Set the standard for how you and your Christian friends are going to proudly wear his name. Show your friends how proud of your Dad you are both among those who also call him Dad and those who don't. Your Dad can handle their opposition and promises to give you the strength to be the one, to be the leader to courageously own your father and your faith despite of any opposition that might come your way.

Your Heavenly Father, your Dad, is always there for you, and he'll never wear his black socks on a Sunday afternoon.

PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father, dear Dad, thank you for giving me your family name. Please help me to trust your promises to me and to help me to wear your name courageously. Help me to encourage my friends to do the same so our relationship with you can remain strong and we can share your name. Amen.