

Happy Birthday, and Father's Day Dad,

6/17/12

These words resonate this year, even more than last year.
Today we celebrate Father's Day, your birth, and your life, all 81 years.

A lot of my friends would give a million dollars to have a Dad who loves God,
and a Dad who loves them.

When they see your heart for God, or your love in action in other ways,
When they see the friendship we now enjoy... they long for what we now have...

Yet they are often unaware of what it took to get here;
The price and process that has led to the prized friendship we now enjoy.

They do not know that when you were half this age,
I was 20, very aware of my own goodness, and so blind to my own foolishness and sin.
It was so easy to judge you harshly then.

They were not there when you and I chose to receive God's forgiveness,
to accept His love and encouragement,
to begin to allow Him to live and love through us.

They are not aware of how and why we have chosen to forgive each other,
to overlook many annoying things, to build our friendship one step at a time....
and how many times we still make those choices.

When you were 60, my present age, I was 40, and much more aware
of my own sin and foolishness and less enamored with my own wisdom..
More and more I saw the evidence of change in your life,
partially because you had been really changing...
Partially because I was less blind.

Now I am 60, and have experienced many losses, warning shots over my bow...
You are pioneering ahead of me in those frightening waters, teaching more life lessons:
experiencing more of God's love while having less things by which we measure ourselves.
You are investing in things which are eternal, while learning how to live with loss.
You are honest about the raw emotions which come from decline in this temporal world.
But you do not allow your disappointments and emotions to dominate your life, or words.
You were a champion while at the top of your game, in the world of sports, work, and parties.
Now you are another kind of champion, in a world that will never fade.
Your hero, your coach, is a Savior Who works through your life,
inviting many others to join you in this journey, bringing life and love now, and for all eternity.

Let's finish strong, Dad, like Caleb.

Let's bring as many of our friends, family and beyond with us into this great adventure..

You are still my hero, and for more reasons than ever before... Love, Kurt



Sharon, Dad Curt, Kurt, Ginger, Kurt Jr., Carrie