



Jordan's Journal[®]

Painting My World.

July 2008

paintingmyworld.com

Touch Points

"Quotes" by Jordan



"Doubt kills a lot of good ideas."



"Sometimes we need more than what's good for us."



"Dreaming only gets you so far."



"If you aren't being true to yourself, then you aren't being true to anyone."



"Don't let other people think for you."



"Sometimes it's good to sit in the sun, and other times it's better to sit in the shade."

Jordan's fingerprints touch upon important points to ponder.



From the Heart of Child Artist *Jordan Cook*

Overtaken and Out of Reach



If you don't watch it, life will creep up on you.

It happens to everyone. In the middle of doing so many things, little, less noticeable things grow bigger and bigger until they *eventually take over!* I'm talking about projects that aren't high on our lists, problems that we decide to deal with later, and even people who work their way into our lives more than we should let them.

The sneaky thing is that they don't do it all at once. No. They do it *little by little*, just like the ivy that grew on a garage I saw the other day. One leaf at a time,

that garage was slowly overtaken. Perhaps it didn't realize how much the ivy would hurt its walls or roof. Maybe it didn't think ivy could weigh that much.

But look what happened!

It doesn't matter if the takeover was friendly or mean. The fact is, damage was done.

Across the street, I spied a gate. Notice where the roses are: *out of reach.*

There is something sad about roses out of reach. They

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remind me of all the *dreams* people have that stay out of reach. *Their dreams stay in the future.*

God wants us to LIVE our dreams! They aren't supposed to stay in the future. He WANTS us to reach them!

So here is the problem: Some things overtake us, and other things are out of our reach. What do we do?

First, pay attention to what clings to you.

What grows on you? What things are around you just because you are used to them? Maybe the leaves are habits that you wish you didn't have. Maybe they are control freaks or needy people that hang on you and won't let go. Are they taking you over?

Next, pay attention to what YOU cling to.

What you hold onto will also hold on to you.

Ask God why things are sticking to you, and why you are letting them.

In the animal and plant world, there are words for things that do this. They are *parasites* and *hosts*. *Parasites suck the life out of their hosts.*

Don't be a host! (Don't be HOST-age.)



Look at these rocks. Only one of them has green algae growing on it. The one with the algae is the one that has been beat up the most. It is craggy. The other rock doesn't look like it's been through as much. That tells me a few things.

If you have been through a lot, you are more likely to be a host.

Our roses get aphids after we prune them. I think the smell of the "stem juice" attracts them. The same thing happens when we cut branches off our cherry trees. The ladybugs and caterpillars smell lunch!

If you have been hurt, maybe you feel sorrier for people who need help than other people do. That's not bad unless needy people are sucking the life out of you. You know what I mean?

Here's another example. If you are a busy person, and you quit spending time with your kid and your kid gets bratty, you might not notice it until it gets bad. Your kid's brattiness will start running the show. *You will be taken over unless you change things.* Other problems will come to you like aphids. Pretty soon you'll be like the garage, hardly able to stand under the weight.

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In this picture, I was holding sand in the shape of a heart. When I let go of the sand, it stuck to me! I had to rinse my hands with water to get the sand off.

What I hold onto will cling to me, even when I try to let go. I have to wash it off if I want to get rid of it for good.

**The answer is pretty simple: Wake up!
Pay attention!**

As for getting a hold of things that stay out of your reach: start cutting back the rosebush.

**Something has to go.
Is it your attitude?
Some of your projects?
Your laziness?
Is it fear of doing something?
Fear of NOT doing something?**

Whatever it is, give the snips to God. Let Him do the cutting. I guarantee the roses will be right next to your nose, and the thorns near the ground instead of at eye-level.

Your dreams will be closer to your eyes, right under your nose, and within your reach. You will see them in front of you every time you come and go.

They will not be so high that your neck gets a kink in it from looking up to see them.

Don't tolerate being overtaken and don't settle for your dreams being too high to reach. God will help you. His plans are BIG.

Walking

Every step I take leads me somewhere.

Sometimes, I walk straight ahead.

Sometimes, I retrace my steps.

I even walk in circles when I must,

But I always keep going forward.

Walking backwards means something in front has scared me,

Or that something behind is pulling me back.

God never pulls me backwards.

He leads me forward.

He says "This is the Way. Turn right."

And "Don't go that way. Turn left."

He says, "Don't be afraid. I've cleared the way."

"I've already been there."

He stands behind me and says, "I'm behind you."

He walks with me and whispers,



"I'm with you."

When I walk, He is my ground. I stand on Him.

He is also my Cover. I am under Him because He is over me.

If I walk faster than Him, I risk danger.

If I walk slower than Him, I miss things.

But if I walk with Him, I never have to wonder where He is, and I arrive right on time.



Jordan's Journal is authored by 8-year-old Jordan Cook for people of all ages. All articles are put together using *her* original ideas.

Though nothing has been added to her content—doctrinally, or otherwise—her mother, Michelle Cook, assists Jordan with writing, editing, and clarity. She also provides the graphics and layout for Jordan's creative designs.

We pray her words bless you as she writes about whatever the Spirit moves her to express.

Breath of Life Ministry

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The World is Thirsty, and *There's A Kink In The Hose!*

If there's a kink in the hose, the water won't come out, *even if the faucet is on.*

Christians, this is a real problem.

You might have God's power, but it won't flow out of you—even if the faucet's on—if there's a kink in your hose.

Our hose kinks all the time, and we bought it only last summer. In fact, both our front and back hoses have the same problem. The hose at my Grandma's does too.

It is COMMON!

Look at this picture.

No wonder the world is thirsty!

We need to be straightened out!

*"...The crooked shall be made straight..."
Luke 3:5 KJV*

God, work out the kinks in our lives. Straighten us out so we can water the world with Your Love and Power.

-Jordan



Photo: **Christian Fish Kink in the Hose**
©Jordan Cook, Age 8

"The world is thirsty!"

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