



Jordan's Journal[®]


Painting My World.

June 2008


paintingmyworld.com


Touch Points


"Quotes" by Jordan


 "There's no limit to how deep you can love."

 "Imagining things is God's way of letting you practice until you are ready to really DO them."

 "Don't hide yourself—You'll get lost!"

 "The easy way doesn't have as many blessings."

 "Keep dreaming until it seems real to you, then do it!"

 "If everything was as it appeared, no one would ever be fooled."

Jordan's fingerprints touch upon important points to ponder.

♥ From the Heart of Child Artist *Jordan Cook*

Growing In Hard Places

I have a story to tell you about this fern, but before I do, I have to first explain a few things that the picture doesn't show.

To begin with, it might appear from the photo that the fern is growing in a pathway on the ground, but it's not. Actually, the fern isn't anywhere near the ground. I took this picture on the roof of our house. (Dad let me come up for a minute while he was cleaning the gutters.) I found this fern growing out of our brick chimney!

Believe me when I tell you I know a few things about ferns because I am really interested in plants and botany.

One thing I know is that ferns don't normally grow sideways between bricks in the sun. Their natural habitat isn't on the roof either. Usually, ferns like to grow in the shade, right side up in moist dirt. They prefer even old stumps in the forest to bricks out in the open.

I immediately liked this fern. It had *attitude*. It was *feisty*. And if plants could have faith, this fern had the noticeable kind.



Here's what I believe the fern was telling me:

**Do not tell me
I can't grow here
Because I am.**

Yes, I work harder at it.

**No, it doesn't bother me if I
never get as big as those
who have it easier.**

**Others can live on the
ground if they want to.**

I prefer the view up here.

**I don't care if people
see me or not.**

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Growing...Continued from page 1

Their thoughts won't
make a difference
anyway.

Yes, I know others tried to
grow here and didn't
make it,

But I'm not them—
I'm me.

I'm not only making it,
I'm thriving!

Of course the sun
is hotter than I'd like
sometimes.

The sprinkler doesn't
reach me on the roof.

But God sees where I am

And it rains just enough.

Watch me grow!
I'm doing it!

Please don't tell me
I could be much

more if I was planted
somewhere else.

I am right where
God put me.

When you are feeling
cramped,

And it takes all you
have just to grow,

Think of me!

If I can do it,
so can you!

Don't Hold On To Junk!



I saw this van at the grocery store awhile ago. I didn't write about it for a few months because it kind of left me speechless. What could I say about it that it didn't say for itself?

I've seen a lot of things in my eight years, but this takes the cake. I have never seen anything so filthy in my life! The entire van was filled

with garbage! Clear to the top!

Mom and I just stared. I know it's rude to gawk, but we couldn't help it. The only breathing room in the van—if you could call it that—was a body-shaped indent carved out for the driver.

Einstein would have scratched his head, but I just held my nose.

It kind of makes you want to go home and clean out your closets, doesn't it?

So here's my message:

Don't hold on to junk!

Just stop it! Please, stop it!

Start forgiving people, and let go of all the stuff that embarrasses you about yourself.

Quit thinking bad thoughts and replaying ugly things people have said to you.

Throw away stinky memories and bad words, and for goodness sake, stop *hoarding what you have!*

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Junk...Continued from page 2

What on earth are you doing?

Do you actually LIKE this stuff? Are you afraid that if you throw it out someone else will see it? Do you think you'll miss it? Do you keep it just because it's "yours"?

Think about it for a minute:

How much have you stuffed away because you didn't want to deal with it?

Have you been asking God to fill you with good things?

Have you made room?

If you aren't sure if you have junk in you, here's how you can tell:

First, *listen to what you are saying. The words you are saying are a clue to what is inside you.*

**"...Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."
-Jesus (Matthew 12:34)**



A Garbage Heart
© Jordan Cook, Age 8

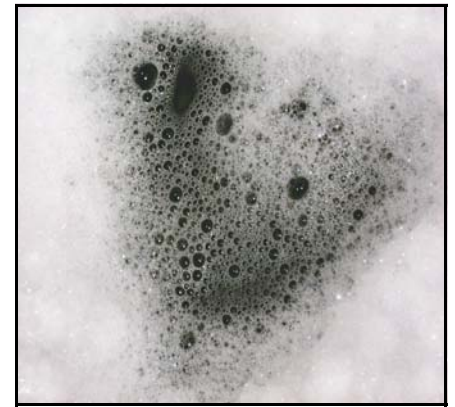
Next, make a list of the things you uncover. Instead of just changing what you say, *try to get rid of what clogs you up.*



A Trash Bag Heart
© Jordan Cook, Age 8

Last, give all the garbage to God so He can get rid of it once and for all. (Say your last goodbyes because He throws it away so no one can remember where it went.)

Trust me, your junk is a present He will like because it means there will be more room in you for the good things He wants you to have.



A Clean Heart
© Jordan Cook, Age 8

A Clean Heart

I want a clean heart;
one that isn't cluttered
with worry or fear.

I don't want anything
in my heart that would
embarrass me if someone
saw it there.

I want my heart to be
a place I like, not a
place I can't stand.

I want my heart to
be a place to store my
treasures, not a place to
hide icky things.

That means I have to
throw some things out.

To Jordan's delight, bubbles in the bathtub formed the perfect image of a clean heart!



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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Glory

© Jordan Cook, Age 8

Glory

I painted what words can't explain.

Unstoppable

Infinite

Everywhere

Alive

Creative

Moving

Rushing

Blessing

P.O. Box 64562 University Place, WA 98464

Email: paintingmyworld@comcast.net

www.paintingmyworld.com