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**I Hope it Rains in Heaven**

**By Terry Higginbotham**

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I've been hunting for as long as I can remember. The first hunt I ever went on with my dad, he had to change my diapers. My first real hunting memory is sitting on a tree stand and snuggling under my dad's coat. To this day, I can still smell the musky scent of that old coat.

My brother and I were raised on hunting, fishing, and trapping. Our lives were truly like the Hank Jr. song, "A Country Boy will Survive", we can "skin a buck and run a trot line". We have had many memorable hunts. I still remember our first deer, riding out a flood, eating Twinkies and sardines, and even being used as dogs when the real ones didn't want to run anymore.

My favorite hunt of all, unfortunately, turned out to be the last for my dad, Lil' brother, and me. It was the last hunting day of the season, and by the next season I was in Omaha Nebraska, Lil' brother was in Florida, and Dad was back home in Louisiana. We always made plans to come home and go hunting, but something always seemed to get in the way. Five years later my dad passed away.

As our family gathered for his funeral, the talk, as it always seemed to, turned to hunting. We all sat around telling lies and big stories. Each story was bigger than the last and all of them larger than they truly were. Lil' brother and I started thinking about the last time we had went hunting together. It had been 6 years earlier.

It was cold, and rainy. Dad had brought his favorite snack, Sardines and Twinkies. You have not lived, until you have tried this tasty treat. I kid; I don't know a single soul, except for my dad that could even stomach this combination. But it was his favorite, when he was hunting. They were like a good luck charm. As we stopped the truck at the trailhead the rain started to come down harder. It was still a couple of hours before daylight, so we stayed in the warmth and relative dryness of Dad's truck. Dad had put a moon roof in his old truck with a jig saw and some plexi-glass, so keeping dry could be a real sport some times.

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To pass the time we talked about all our passed hunting trips. We recounted the time I shot the truck, a real life lesson in gun safety. The time my brother got lost in the woods and had to be rescued by game wardens in a helicopter. The time my dad shot a goat and tried to convince my brother and I, it was a spike. We told story after story. We finally noticed that it was raining harder, the roof was leaking more, and the Twinkies were getting wet. You can't let good Twinkies and Sardines go to waste. We washed them all down with what was left of the Stop n' Go Coffee. We spent the rest of the day telling tall tales and laughing. We never loaded a gun, nor got on a stand, but it was the best hunt I ever had.

It's been seven years since my dad died. Lil' Brother and I have not missed a year hunting together, since. We made a pact and we are sticking to it. We bring our sons along, now. We are teaching them what we were taught. Dad use to tell us the greatest gift you can give your child is your time. He forgot to tell us, as a father, the greatest gift you can give yourself is time with your kids. I miss him so much, especially during hunting season. But I know I will see him again. If Heaven is perfect, and I know it is, there will be a Stop n' Go with bad weak coffee, sardines and Twinkies, and it will always rain the last

day of hunting season.

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Owner of

and The OuachitaGroup, Terry Higginbotham, is an avid hunter, fisherman,

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### **Applying the Word is Power**

**By Daniel N. Brown**

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In God's plan for every believer is peace, hope, and a good future (Jeremiah. 29:11). It is His will that we live abundant and prosperous lives but the enemy will try to destroy every ounce of peace and hope we have by bringing doubt into our minds.

If you are experiencing doubt and discouragement in your life right now, it is because the devil is robbing you of the blessings that God has for you. The devil is a thief and it is his only mission to steal, kill, and destroy, but Jesus came that we may have life and may have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

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Did you notice the word "may"? Webster's Dictionary describes "may" as permission, opportunity, perhaps, and possibly.

God has done His part by sending His Son to die on the cross, not only to save us from our sins, but also to give us life abundantly. Whether we have life abundantly or not depends on us!

God has given us His Word, which is our roadmap for success (Joshua 1:8). His Word is forever established in heaven, and whatsoever we shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever we shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:19). What are you binding and loosing in your life?

As Christians, it is our duty to know God's Word and what it says about us. We must exercise our faith daily by speaking it over our circumstances if we want to see positive changes come about.

Remember, the Word is like a two-edged sword. It cuts one direction to bring about the changes we desire and another direction to halt the devil. Just as Jesus used the Word to defeat Satan in the dessert (Mathew 4:1-11), so should we.

Jesus knew the Word, and He applied it. Obviously, you must know the Word before you can apply it! It has been said that knowledge is power. That's not true. Applied knowledge is power.

I hope you are currently involved in a bible study group or have a bible-reading program established for yourself. You have got to know and apply the Word of God to live a victorious

life and experience all the good that God has for you!

Daniel N. Brown is the publisher of the "Living the Abundant and Prosperous Christian Life" Newsletter. A free weekly publication that teaches how to live the abundant and prosperous Christian life. Receive a free copy of Dan's 14 page report entitled, "5 Biblical Keys to Outrageous Prosperity," when you sign up. [www.secretplaceonline.com/newsletter](http://www.secretplaceonline.com/newsletter)

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