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Lesson from An Old Guitar

By Chuck Hinson

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FOREWARD

Sometimes, the greatest parables can be found in everyday situations. What you're about to read is something that happened to me in August, 1964. It's the story of an encounter between me and my father, C. E. Hinson.

I'll never forget the lesson he taught me that day ... it's one that I've passed down to my children, and to others. It's my prayer that you'll find the lesson in it, as well, and pass it on to those who can use the wisdom he conveyed in this. My dad was, in my eyes, the greatest man God could've put in the 20 th Century. He and my mama were the epitome of what Christ taught ... and, to their memory, I dedicate this story.

I hope you enjoy it.

A LESSON FROM AN OLD GUITAR

Years ago, when I was just barely into my teens, my dad came home from work carrying a battered, old guitar. He knew I wanted to learn to play one - I'd seen folk groups, country acts - even some new group called "The Beatles" playing them, and it looked like so much fun. In fact, while these performers were on TV, I'd watch carefully for the close-up shots, and (using a baseball bat as a "guitar") I'd mimic their fingering, position of the chords and timing.

When he gave me the acoustic guitar, I sat down and, propping it up on my knee, began to position my fingers on the neck, just as I had seen the performers

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do. Certainly, I was going to be the next Elvis.
But he did something that I'll remember to my dying
day: He took a big, calloused hand, put it over the
fingerboard and stopped me from playing! Then he
said,

"Son, wait a minute. Let me tell you a little story.

You see, Life's a lot like that old guitar you've got, especially when it's time to pay your dues. And, just like the sounds you can make on that guitar, the ones you make in life is entirely up to you. We can't stop you from framing away at it like an off-tune madman any more than we can stop you from playing beautiful music.

When you get to be an adult, it's going to be the same thing when you're 'out there' in the real world. Nobody can stop you; it's your choice as to what type of 'music' you give them.

Now, you see those strings, and how you're holding them down with your fingertips? Each note is meant to create harmony with each other. That's your goal in life, son ... learn to place each thing you do ... each step you take ... so it'll be in harmony with mankind. Otherwise, just like with the guitar, you're gonna make such a noise that nobody'll want to hear you."

I listened intently; this was good stuff! Then he continued,

"And, by and by, you'll learn how to sing with that guitar - maybe even write a few tunes yourself.

When you do, remember that a simple tune does better when the words are from the heart. Make them easy for people to learn ... to keep in their mind. And you're painting a picture with each one. Son, remember to do the same thing in your everyday doings, and you'll make friends and be happier than you ever thought.

And that 'song' that you sing ... the one you show everyday in your actions ... will be the one that'll go 'number one' with your friends and others. Just leave the lyrics open to your brother's and sister's point of view, and they'll be humming that song long after you've gone.
Now ... let's hear you play ..."

Chuck Hinson is a publisher and announcer whose fondest memories are of his home in Pineville, North Carolina. Along with (then) Rep. (later Gov.) Jim Martin, he authored a resolution that called for, and later became, National Children's Day. He's produced three popular audiotapes, a newspaper ("The Window Today"), and has a website at <http://greatinternetnewspaper.bizhosting.com>.

Learn to Play Guitar Online – Discover Guitar Lesson Tools.

By Anna Rowe

You can learn to play guitar online – and it's never been easier.

Whether you wish to become a jazzy crooner, a country strummer or a jamming rock star, the guitar is one of the easiest instruments to learn. There are a variety of lessons, tools and help out there in

cyberspace. And, you can learn enough to strum along with your first song after only one lesson!

To learn how to play guitar online, you need several tools in addition to your guitar. Some guitar lessons and tools designed to assist you in learning how to play guitar online, include:

- Step-by-step guitar lessons.
- Chord lessons and chord charts.
- Guitar tab lessons.
- Song lyrics with chords.
- Guitar lesson ebooks and software programs.
- Sheet music
- Sound files and guitar jam tracks.
- Online guitar site forums.

If you are a beginner, look for online guitar lessons directed toward the new guitar player. These lessons should include the basics, such as; how to hold a guitar, choose a guitar, basic chord instruction, learning frets and how to choose guitar accessories.

Of course, the beginning guitar player will need charts for learning the various chords, so, at the very least, look for these visual aids. With practice, it won't be long before you'll be ready for intermediate guitar lessons.

The intermediate guitar player can also benefit from quality online guitar lessons and resources which illustrate the many chords. Furthermore, intermediate guitar players will be interested in learning to read guitar tablature.

There are many websites that offer free guitar lessons, but you may choose instead to get help with an online guitar lesson program. Although there's nothing wrong with teaching yourself guitar for free, many beginners find that it's easier, and faster, to learn to play guitar from a pro.

With professional guitar instruction, you'll learn how to play guitar the correct way, while learning which mistakes and bad habits you must avoid. It's truly a highly effective way to learn to play guitar. You'll learn valuable tips and techniques designed to reduce the confusion and frustrations that many people experience when learning to play a new instrument.

By choosing a guitar lesson program, developed by a professional guitarist, you'll get all levels of training needed. Most professional online guitar lesson programs are very affordable, and come with all the "bells and whistles" of proper guitar learning.

In Closing:

It's never been easier to learn to play guitar online. Of course it takes practice, but many of the greatest guitarists taught themselves most of what they know about guitar playing. Because of the Internet, you can play along with guitar jam tracks, learn unusual chords, find chords and lyrics for songs you want

to learn, and even learn to read guitar tablature.

You can even join an online guitar players forum to get one-on-one help, support and to ask questions. And because of the high demand of learning guitar online, if you choose to invest in an online guitar course, the prices have never been lower than they are today.

Article by Anna Rowe. Visit her

site to compare the best

programs. Get free guitar lessons and guitar playing tips.



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