

2024

Grade 7

God is spontaneous and works in many odd ways. God is unpredictable but He is always right. In October of 2023, my grandfather and I got into a huge fight. It ended in screaming and crying. I decided I needed a break from seeing him. The fight was spreading throughout my family, and nobody was particularly happy about the situation. I had started getting picked up from school by my parents just to avoid seeing him. We ran into each other many times, but nobody dared to speak.

A few weeks later I was at a school Mass. We had just finished the last song when I saw him and my grandmother sitting only a pew behind us. I wanted to go up to them, but I was hesitant. Then something in me said, "Go to them." It repeated in my head until I finally mustered up the courage to walk up to them. Once my grandfather laid eyes on me, he pulled me into a tight hug and smothered me with love.

I still ponder that day in my mind. We ran into each other on many occasions but of all the places we could've made amends, it was in the Lord's house. I believe that God was at work that day, working to unite my family with love. Working to help us forgive. That moment reminds us to be mindful that life is short and that we should cherish our relationship with others. Christ connects us all in ways we can't understand. He intertwines his people with love so strong nothing could separate. Christ is alive in many ways, In the church, in the gospel, but most importantly is each of us.

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### **The Power of Prayer**

There are many times I thought about God. When I do, I think about my life, my family, and how thankful I am to have him. There is one particular moment in my life that he helped me and heard my prayers.

There was a time when my dad was not making great choices and he went to prison. I suffered and struggled because I no longer got to see him as much. I would cry every night because I was scared and very worried for him. Things started to affect me in a bad way. For example, things started to change at school. I would misbehave and not make good choices. I was suffering and carried a lot of anger and fear. I couldn't stop thinking about my dad.

Finally, I was able to visit him in jail with my Grandmother. It was hard for me to see him there and I was upset because I couldn't get to touch him or hug him. He asked me why I was in tears, and I made some excuse. Every night after that I would cry alone in my room and one day my mom heard me, so she came into my room and we talked about it. She said to me, "God is watching over your dad and making sure he is okay." We decided to pray together for him that night. After that we would always pray and ask God to guide him and help him make better choices.

Eventually, he was released from prison and my behavior improved in school. I felt less stressed. My dad got put into a program to help him and we stayed in touch by phone. I would cry once in a while because I missed him. I would constantly pray to God and ask him to let me see my dad and to have a close bond with him. God listened to my prayers and my dad came home. Till this day, I think God for helping me and my dad get through this rough time. This was a time I felt really close to God.