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# Key Notes

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“Hold Papa’s hand while we cross the street,” I said to my 3-year-old grandson as we stood on the curb of a busy intersection. “There’s lots of traffic and you need to hold on tight.”

As the light turned green, I extended my index finger and Jaden took hold. But as we stepped briskly into the street, I felt his grip weaken as his attention wandered to the trucks, buses and motorcycles all around us. Before I realized it, he had let go and was lagging behind. “No, Jaden! Hold my hand. This is dangerous.”

Absentmindedly, he grasped my finger again. But after a few steps, he let go as he bent down to examine a flattened bottle cap lying in the crosswalk. Raising my voice, I stretched out my finger a third time. “Jaden! Hold on!” Obediently, he wrapped his tiny fingers once again around my finger, but as we stepped onto the opposite curb, he stumbled. Though trying to hold on, his strength was simply not equal to the demands of such a big step.

By this point I realized my mistake. “Here, Jaden. Rather than you trying to hold *my* hand, let me hold *yours!*” I wrapped my fist around his entire wrist and forearm in a vice-grip that let him know he would never get out! The remainder of our walk went smoothly as we both discovered the difference between his grip... and mine.

Friend, have you discovered the difference between your grip on Christ and Christ’s grip on you? Paul talks about the two grips in Philippians 3:12. *I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.* Paul knew which grip came first. He had no illusions about which grip really mattered.

Perhaps this week you have discovered that the bumps along the road of life have caused you to stumble and fall. Perhaps your grip on Christ has loosened as the things of this world have attracted your attention. I have good news! His grip does what yours cannot. Your hold on Him may waver, but His hold on you is strong as steel. Relax. Stop trying so hard. Trust Him. Let Him wrap His mighty hand around yours. He never lets go!

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28)*

In His Grip,  
Pastor Stan