

You gotta love children, the way they view the world, and the profound things they say without even realizing their profundity. I came across a story David Roper told about an experience he shared with his brother-in-law Ed and Ed's 3-year-old son David. The three of them were walking along a Texas creek and David (the 3 y/o) had been collecting smooth, round stones from the stream as they walked. He called them "piggies" because their rounded shape reminded the boy of little pigs.

David had stuffed a number of "piggies" in his pockets, and after running out of pockets he began carrying them in his arms. After a while he began to stagger under the load and lag behind. It was obvious he would never make it back to the house without help, so Ed (the boy's father) said, "Here, son, let me carry your piggies."

Reluctance clouded the young boy's face for a moment, and then it lit up. "I know," he said, "Dad, you carry me and I'll carry my piggies!"

I often think about the little boy in David's story and my own childish insistence that I must carry my own load. Jesus offers to take all of my burdens but I resist out of stubbornness and pride. "You carry me," I often say to Jesus, "but I'll carry my piggies."

How foolish it is to try to carry my burdens on my own when Jesus invites me in 1 Peter 5:7 to "cast all my care upon Him, for He cares for me." Somehow I don't think I'm the only person who finds it hard to let Jesus have control of my "piggies."

I think about the "piggies" I've insisted on toting throughout my life, and the "piggies" to which other people desperately cling. And you know what I've discovered? Some "piggies" seem especially popular! Yep, it seems there are a handful of "piggies" that are particularly hard to release into the care of Jesus. Here's my unofficial Top 5 Piggy list:

- Refusal to forgive/anger/resentment – these three "piggies" are siblings, very popular, and incredibly heavy
- Fear/worry – these closely related "piggies" have little trouble finding an available ride in someone's heart and mind
- Self condemnation – surrendering a "piggy" God has already forgiven and forgotten is a gargantuan task for many people
- Addiction – it's truly mind-boggling the things one is willing to sacrifice (family, health, career, friends, etc.) in order to keep toting this "piggy"
- Pride/greed – these "piggies" are so comfortable in the hearts of some people they have their very own rooms

You probably could name many more "piggies" that we choose to carry on life's journey even though they weigh us down, steal our joy, and prevent us from experiencing the richness of God's blessing. God teaches us in Hebrews 12:1 to lay aside every weight ... *every "piggy"* ... that prevents us from running with endurance the race that lies before us. It is NOT a noble undertaking to tote a burden that Jesus has not asked you to carry; instead - wield a passion for reaching unsaved people, tote a zeal to be salt & light in our broken world, embrace a fiery passion for fulfilling your Great Commission. Piggies? Let 'em go. Grace & peace, love you. PK