

My Dad was an exceptional man. He was so talented in so many ways that I would sometimes wonder where he learned all this “stuff”. He could repair and increase the power of a radio receiver as well as overhaul a tractor engine and hydraulics. He could repair a broken bicycle as well as repair a hay baler.

He was a master carpenter so he could build just about any wood type structure or furniture. He was a business owner at one time and a leader of men while he worked as foreman for housing at Southern Illinois University.

With all this ability and talent one would think that there was nothing he couldn't do. But that turned out to be untrue.

On most Saturday nights, we would go fishing. It was on one of those nights that he gave in to our pleading and decided to use a “New” rod and reel instead of a cane pole, which he was so used to using.

Since he had never used one before, my brother and I were curious as to how this was going to work. It was hilarious to watch this talented man become “unraveled” by this simple rod and reel.

Confident though he was, he found something that tried his patience to the max. He would get so frustrated that he would throw it in the bushes or fling it as far as he could in the woods. One time he threw it into the water. Fortunately the water was shallow so he could walk out and get it.

Eventually he got the hang of it and never looked at a cane pole again...for fishing that is.

I think of stories like this about my childhood and then wonder how the Apostles, though they were with Jesus daily, they still had to take three years to finally “get it”. I think that's one good reason for John to let us know in his letter that our sins are continuously cleansed if we are truly walking (trying to get it) in the Light.

If that were not so, I would have to be near perfect on my first minute from arising out the watery grave of baptism.

While we're thankful during this time of year let us all be thankful for what Jesus did for us...not just right now but *forever* from now!!

Happy New Year!

***Mike***