

## **Youth Sunday, October 21, 2007**

**Message: Don't lose Heart - Written and delivered by: Jonathan Trout, Age 14**

My first love in life was flight. Ever since I was three and was no longer enthralled by pushing the button on the trash truck, I have wanted to be a pilot. On one flight to my grandma's house in Denmark at age five, I walked my way through the plane and asked a man if I could sit by him to look at the engines that thundered the plane onward. Lucky for me he was a designer of Jet engines! Now after hearing this I beamed from ear to ear and even remembered my manners enough to say thank you. Seeing my fascination he moved over and let me sit by the window. We talked for maybe 3 hours before I had to go back, to my "other" seat and sat down probably forever inspired to be a pilot. The only reason those 3 hours, that one event in the 14 years of my existence, sticks out in my mind and is still vivid is because, I was given a compliment by the "man that makes things fly". I don't remember his name let alone don't know whether he is still alive or not, but that one man has probably been one of the biggest influences in my life.

My parents can support me in most everything. Music, photography, art, poetry, novel writing... on and on and on. But flight... Flight, they have no clue how to help me, it seems like the closest I could get to flying was my simulator at home on the computer which I used excessively. I was obsessed, even though it was on a computer with 100 pixels in the shape of the cars, trees, buildings that zoomed underneath my simulated belly; that was enough thrill to keep me enthralled. I would learn more and more as I continued my hobby but my one real dream was and is still to fly.

I would dream of flying. In school I would read my book about instrument flying, when we had free time. I Didn't lose heart. Something in me just kept telling me to keep pushing, because if there is a god up there he would surely notice my feeble attempts at imitating my dream. Recently through a dear friend, who knows the instructors at Long Beach Airport, I got to use a professional simulator. They have taken me under their wing, so to speak, and are teaching me

the real techniques. I am inspired more than ever, and it seems like a goal that was once impossible, is now maybe reachable.

A great example of this is the parable of the persistent widow, which we just heard in the scripture reading. But I would like to read the first bit of it again. It says...

1Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

4"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' "

If we continue to hope and persist we will find a way to our goal. That widow believed that she was due justice and so although she knew it was almost impossible to get it from the judge, she kept trying, and pushing until the judge basically said (I'LL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT IF YOU SHUT UP!) Although I don't think god is exactly the same, if you just keep pushing god will hear you. Like water carving a canyon, ten minutes of bashing a rock wall is meaningless, yet if the water was to keep smashing, it would eventually start to erode the rock in its way, and begin to break through to the other side.

An extremely influential book in my life is Jonathan Livingston Seagull (Robin Marie did not make me say this). And it seems to fit considering my name is Jonathan and my one goal in life is to fly. Just like Jonathan seagull. One quote from the book is "Don't believe what your eyes are telling you. All they show is limitation. Look with your understanding." That is what my attempt is. I refused to see my limitations and understand there was a way to do what I wanted to. My mom always tells me that the biggest thing in my way is myself - that I am my own worst enemy. When you have a dream and you focus on it enough doors are bound to open, not because of luck but because of the relentless pursuit of your goal, and because I believe the universe is

listening. Don't ever stop trying because then you set a mental limit on yourself that can probably never be overcome.

Dr. David M. Burns has said: *"Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism. Confronting your fears and allowing yourself the right to be human can, paradoxically, make yourself a happier and more productive person."* – This holds so true. Richard Bach devoted Jonathan Livingston Seagull to the Jonathan Seagull in us all, which I think is very meaningful. When we are put down, we must focus on the goal, not the rest of the flock that ridicules us. There is a spirit that won't give up in all of us, we just have to choose not to ignore it. We have to choose not to lose heart.