

My Little Man

He weighed in at 8 lbs 10 ozs, 20 and 1/2 in long, with no teeth and no hair. Though I've given him the name, "my little man" his parents named him, Anderson David Stacy after his grandpa, David Carter Evans.

Anderson's dad, Aaron, is a computer engineer who graduated from both Purdue and the University of Texas. He works for Google. His mom, Ashly, graduated from Calvin College and was a public school teacher until two weeks before Anderson's birth. She is now a stay at home mom and loving every facet of it. This family of three lives in Austin, Texas.

About a year and a half ago, I learned my favorite thing in all the world would soon be hanging out with my little man, Anderson. In March, I went to Texas to be with him. I wanted to help him celebrate his first birthday.

I like to visit Anderson as much as I possibly can, which isn't as much as I would like, but since I still work full time, I utilize FaceTime and Snapchat to keep up with him.

For years, I've listened to friends as they've spoken about their grandchildren and I've always thought it was cool to see the smile on their faces and the sparkle in their eyes as they did. Now, not only do I better understand my friends but I'm sure I have that same smile on my face and sparkle in my own eyes when I talk about Anderson.

Lately, I've been thinking about many of the ways Anderson's short physical life reminds me of my own spiritual life. Ways like:

His often need for nourishment. Just like he needs food and water, I need the nourishment I receive from time each day spent reading and studying God's Word, being in prayer and listening to messages from pastors, leaders and teachers whom I respect.

When Anderson falls down he gets back up over and over again. This reminds me of the countless number of times in my 48 years of being a Christ follower that I've fallen down or felt I had let God down in some area of my walk with Him. God, in his mercy and grace, has helped me get back up on my feet over and over and over again.

Sometimes, Anderson is happy one minute and unhappy the next. Like me, there are times when things are going along quite smoothly, no trials and no tests, and all of a sudden I get blindsided by something or someone and I become unhappy, too. In times like these, God reminds me that Psalm 46:10,11 says, "Be still and know that I am God, the God of Jacob is my refuge."

There are days when Anderson wants to cling to his momma and there are other days when he wants to be free of her. Oh, how I am just like this with God! There are days when I want my devotion time to go on for hours because I'm enjoying such sweet fellowship with Him. Then, there are days when I think I have too much I need to get done so I shorten my time with Him.

Something similar to this I see in Anderson, also, is when he wants to be carried at times and other times he wants to walk by himself without assistance from anyone. Yes, sometimes I desire for God to carry me along without me exerting any effort. Other times, I'm sorry to say, I

don't think I need Him. In my foolish confidence I think I don't need his help. "I can do it alone, all by myself, Father!" Oh, how foolish I am!

If permitted, Anderson would only eat applesauce, pudding, jello and popsicles. He would rather not have to eat carrots, squash and green beans. Just like me, sometimes I would rather just do the fun stuff God has for me to do. Being disciplined, volunteering and giving of my time and resources can be hard work and not much fun but God reminds me of their importance in kingdom building.

I close today with a curiosity question. If you have small children around you, today, can you see yourself in them? If you do, you have a reflection of yourself without even holding a mirror.

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