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FLUNKING THE TEST

Recently I wrote an article called [“Nails in the Fence”](#) which told about a boy that got angry and his dad made him drive a nail into their fence every time it happened. Then when he had learned his lesson, he had him take out the nails one at a time for each day that he did not get angry. The nails were now gone but the holes were still there even though the boy had changed. He had learned his lesson the hard way and that fence was a reminder.

Well, I can attest that whenever you teach something that you will immediately be put to a test to see if you are practicing what you “teach.” I am here to say that yesterday I put a nail in a fence. It was a huge nail. I got angry with a clerk at a store when the price rang up different than what I thought was listed on a shelf. Needless to say, I acted ugly with my words. I definitely was not a good witness for Jesus.

I am thankful for a God that brings conviction and not condemnation. It was not long after this incident happened that the Holy Spirit said, “Helen, you need to repent and get this right.”

You see, I did not just put a hole in that person’s fence. I displeased God. My actions were ugly, and they needed to be dealt with. I realized that I needed to go back to that business and confess that I was wrong. Now, that isn’t something that most of us like to do, but I had to do it, and after doing this and apologizing to the person, my heart no longer felt like it had a hole in it. I could feel the Lord’s presence and his forgiveness.

Have you found yourself in situations like this? Has the ugliness you displayed to someone hurt your testimony? Well, if so, then you need to get things right. I pulled the nail out of the fence, and I was thankful the person responded with kindness.

Will I ever do this again? Well, I would like to think I won’t, but tests come, and we often flunk them. But the key to victory is admitting that it was your fault you flunked, repent, and thank the Lord you can take that test again, and hopefully not flunk the test!