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NAILS IN THE FENCE

There was a young boy that often lost his temper and was becoming out of control. His father decided to discipline him. His discipline to bring correction in the boy's life was to put a nail in their family's fence every time he lost his temper. During the first few weeks there were a lot of nails driven into the fence. By the third week there were less nails, and in time there were no nails at all. The correction through discipline had brought a change in this boy's behavior.

Then the father had another lesson for the boy to learn. He told the boy that every day that he "didn't" lose his temper he could take out a nail. In a few weeks all the nails were removed from the fence. The boy and his father were pleased that he had made such a profound change.

Then his father took him out to the fence to teach him another lesson. He said, "Son, look at all the nail holes. These nail holes represent your angry words, which were like nails. Those angry words, like nails, were driven into someone and they caused great pain in their lives. You might have taken the nails out, but now there is a hole left where that nail or a hurt once was. The fence will never be the same. They have left a scar."

This lesson taught the boy how important it was to not lose his temper. We can all learn a lot from this story. Proverbs 16:32 says, ***"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."*** Again, Proverbs 15:1 says, ***"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."***

Proverbs 18:21 says, ***"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."***

The next time we are tempted to be angry and speak in anger, let us remember that our angry words are like those nails in the fence. We cannot take them out or back without leaving a scar.