

GLEANINGS

Article GE- 140

ALWAYS GOD'S CHILD

The prodigal son that Jesus told us about represents many of God's children today. Please note that before the prodigal son became dissatisfied with living under his father's authority and discipline, he was a member of his father's family. After he left the presence and fellowship of his father, he was still his father's child. When he was spending the things his father had blessed him with, he was still his father's child. When he lost everything and ended up living with pigs, he was still a member of his father's family. When he finally came to his senses and decided to return in repentance to his father, he was still his father's child. *"16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. 17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." Luke 15:16-19 The English Standard Version*

Jesus taught several important truths in this parable. One of the most important was that when one of God's children breaks fellowship with their Heavenly Father and searches for joy in the things of this world, they should not be surprised when they end up living with the pigs of this world. However, no matter which pigs they end up living with, they are still a member of their Heavenly Father's family.

The prodigal son that Jesus described in Luke 15:11-24 did not come back to his father until he came to his senses. He had to come to the place where he recognized his condition and repented of his wasteful life. True contentment and joy could only be found when the son was willing to return and serve his father. The son could not be restored back into fellowship with his father until he was willing to come back in repentance.