As Donald made his way into the kitchen, he found his parents already starting their morning routine of breakfast and prayer. As a family they always attempt to grab a bite to eat and pray over one another before leaving the house each day.

Donald greeted both with a smile and a cheerful “Good morning!” They both then turned their attention to him and replied “Good morning son! Hope you slept well.”

As Donald walked towards the kitchen table his mom let him know that she had already prepared some breakfast for everyone and that it was on the table ready to go.

Mom, dad and Donald were all seated at the table ready to enjoy their breakfast and quality conversation.

Dad told his wife and Donald that he had to leave shortly for an important meeting at work. He shared that as he was preparing for an intense day of meetings, but he was filled with a spirit of peace. He looked Donad in the eye and asked him how do you think it was possible to feel that way? Donald replied, “It goes back to one of your favorite verses dad. Galatians 5:22-23 “The fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control!”

They took a moment to enjoy their breakfast knowing it was almost time to leave.

With a big smile, Donald’s dad leaned toward him while they were both still seated and prayed, “Lord, cover our son, order his steps, and may he attempt to bring you glory in all that he does this day!” Everyone said Amen.

Donald and his dad then grabbed their bags and headed toward the front door. When available, Donald’s dad enjoyed dropping him off at school before heading to work.

Donald’s first subject of the day with his teacher Mrs. Johnson was math. While this was one of Donald’s favorite subjects, it was also the one he needed to practice the most patience. He would often make careless mistakes when working on a problem and forget to take the time to check his work.

“Take out your math homework and review it with a classmate. I will be collecting it in about 5 minutes,” said Mrs. Johnson.

Donald instantly let out a deep groan of disappointment. He remembered that he had left his math book in his desk the night before. He did not have any homework to be reviewed or to turn into the teacher.”

He then felt a tap on his shoulder. It was his best friend Jonathan trying to get his attention. Jonathan and Donald have been close since kindergarten. This was the first class they had together since the second grade.

“Hey Donald, here is my homework. You can copy my answers while Mrs. Johnson is busy writing at the board. She will never know.”

Donald took a deep breath and closed his eyes. He knew that even if his teacher was not looking, God was! Even if she never found out, God would know of his actions. He understood that not telling the truth was not a fruit of the spirit.

When Donald opened his eyes, he turned around, looked directly at Jonathan, and replied, “I’ll just take a zero this time, it’s not worth it.”

That statement took so much courage to say aloud. He pictured himself saying it numerous times while he was praying for the spirit of self-control with his eyes closed. He understood that this was his moment to let his light shine brightly and show his classmates what it looks like to have integrity.

Jonathan quickly shot back, “Suit yourself, I was just trying to help you out man.”

After several minutes had passed, Mrs. Johnson began to collect everyone’s homework. She noticed that Donald’s paper was missing. She then came over to his desk with a big smile on her face.

She leaned over his shoulder and whispered in a soft voice “Donald, I noticed before I left the classroom yesterday that you had forgotten your math book on top of your desk. I was glad to see that you did not attempt to copy someone’s answers and turn them in as your own. I would have been forced to call your mother this afternoon and discuss your choice of action. We both know she would not have appreciated that phone call, right?” Donald replied, “Yes Mrs. Johnson.” Just then the class timer went off to end the math lesson for the day.

As Donald transitioned his classroom materials for his next subject, he took a moment to thank the Lord for strengthening him in his moment of weakness. He was excited that the Lord heard his prayer and answered it. He told the truth when it was easier to tell a lie. Maybe this is another example of him tapping into his God-given ability to walk in the fruits of the spirit as Donald the Knight!!!