

## Lessons From a Pup

A couple months ago we ventured out and added a mini-goldendoodle to our family. His name is Copper (think The Fox and the Hound). Recently I sensed Holy Spirit highlighting a few things to me about my relationship with Copper that parallel my relationship with The Lord.

We have the best food and freshest water available for Copper, which he will take – but what does he really go after any chance he gets? When he goes outside, he immediately starts to eat sticks and mulch from the flower bed and will drink dirty water that has collected on the lawn chair.

For us, God provided His Word and Living Water for us to feast on – but what does by flesh crave? The world's wonders. I sense Holy Spirit say, "Don't be a dog! Eat what I provide for you!"

A sweet thing that Copper does is follow me around the kitchen and sit, not just at my feet, but literally on my feet. If I take a step to put away a dish, he moves right with me to stay at my feet. Jesus loves when we sit at His feet!

As I walk back and forth in the kitchen preparing meals or putting away clean dishes, from Copper's perspective he may think we are just walking back and forth to the same places over and over again. From my perspective I may go back to the same spot, but it is for a different purpose each time.

I feel that Holy Spirit is saying, "Follow me and trust that I see from a higher perspective; come up here and see from my perspective – I don't take you back to the same spot over and over again for no reason – I may revisit the same places, but with a new purpose. Trust me!"

Copper will move with me even if I take a very small step. I sense Holy Spirit say, "These small steps are not random; sometimes small adjustments are necessary to correct your course in life. Follow Me!"

We are in the midst of house-training Copper. I have learned to keep an eye on him and when he wanders off, he is going to make a mess. I sense Holy Spirit say, "When you wander away from my presence you're headed for a mess – come back to me. You are never out of my sight!"

We are also kennel training Copper at night. At first, he fussed and wanted out; now he is adjusting and knows it is a good, safe place for him. Holy Spirit says, "I set boundaries for you for your protection. I have your back!"

Our son, Warren, comes to our house during his lunch break from work to let Copper out and feed him. Copper loves Warren. When I listen to the radio or video Copper doesn't seem to pay

any attention to them. The other day Copper heard Warren's voice on a video of the two of them playing. Immediately Copper's ears perked up and he became very interested in where the sound was coming from. He knows Warren's voice and listens to him. Holy spirit says, "My sheep know my voice. Learn to distinguish My voice from the voice of the world and that of the enemy – ignore them and listen to Me!"

One final example – Copper will look at me with affection, lick my hand and wag his tail when I lean down to pet him. It melts my heart and just wrecks me. How much more does our Father in heaven, who loves us more than we can imagine, want an intimate relationship with each of us. When we worship and spend time with Him – Oh, it melts His heart. To have intimacy with Him is how he designed us. Joy is experienced by both of us involved in the relationship!

A Prayer: Father God thank you for the simple, but profound illustrations that You give us every day to show us Your love and desire for fellowship with us, your kids. Jesus thank you that because of You we can come into the presence of our Father God. Holy spirit thank you for speaking to us and showing us great and mighty things that we do not know. All glory, honor, and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen