

My Dad was quite the character. I asked what 2 words he would use to describe the Bible. He told me he'd have to think about and get back to me. After 2 months had passed we were heading into Walmart together and he stopped in the middle of the road blocking the cars and some people too. He looked at me and said, "I got my 2 words. Mercy Forever." As soon as the words left his mouth he hit full speed on his scooter and zipped away. Little did he know that scooter would soon be toast.

It happened on a Sunday morning. We found my 90 year-old Dad sitting on the floor leaning back on his recliner. He looked exhausted. No wonder, he'd just

scutched about 100 feet just 4” at a time from our fire ring in the backyard.

“The fire was 20 feet high.”

You’d think he’d have said that with some level of fear, but not my Dad. No, he said it matter-of-factly as if he were rattling off statistics. The irony of it all is that he almost became a statistic. I was amazed at the awareness he had while escaping a near death experience with fire.

This man took about 10 seconds on average to get up from his scooter.

“Where’s your scooter?”

“It’s not here.”

“I can see that, but where is it?”

“It’s not here. It’s gone.”



He then told us the whole story. How he was impatient because he wasn’t able to light the fire. I didn’t understand this since

my Dad had been the picture of patience all his life. **NOT SO!** The picture of his scooter burnt to the ground shows how impatient that man was to the very end! He had lit many piles of brush in the previous summer with no problems.

So what did he do this time? He got a gallon of KEROSENE and poured “just a little on the edges.” Well, the coals from a fire 2 days earlier were still going and the fluid caught fire! He threw the gallon can **into the fire** and the large pile of brush exploded into a 20 foot flame! He jumped from his scooter, and rolled to safety! Only his right forearm got a 2nd degree burn and his right sneaker got a little damaged.

My wife and I looked at him with sheer amazement. How on earth did he escape? It had to be a miracle. We figured an angel had to pick him up, throw him, and roll him away from the fire. It burned so hot that it burnt his scooter to the ground! If you look close enough on the word art image you can see the outline of it laying there in ashes!

“But—“When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he

*declared us righteous and gave us confidence
that we will inherit eternal life.”*

Titus 3:4-7 NLT