



TRAIL TIP:

Be Careful Who you Play Calf-Rope With.

Believe it or not, just a few years ago before video games we played “games” with the family. Growing up in the Oklahoma/Texas region we certainly had family traditions and games that were passed along to us. My Great-Grandfather Jobe had been a farmer and he liked to play a game he called “chickens”. He’d point at your forehead and say now this chicken is called a Rooster; then he’d point at your chin and say this chicken is called a Hen; then he’d point at my nose and say this chicken is called a Pullet. Then he’d start over and this time he’d ask you to repeat what each one was. Pointing at my forehead he’d say: What did I say this one was? I would assuredly say: ROOSTER. Then he’d point at my chin and say: What did I say this one was? I with complete confidence would say: HEN. Then he’d point back at my nose and say: What did I say this one was? And I would “fall for it” and say loud and clear: PULLETT He’d say: I’m sorry, what did you say? I’d say it a little louder because apparently he had not heard me: PULLETT ! To which he promptly PULLETT IT....my nose that is.

On the other side of the family we didn’t have so many chicken farmers apparently because that Grandfather liked to play a game he called Calf-Rope. Now I didn’t particularly like this game as much. I had gotten wise to Great-Grandpa Jobe’s game after a few pulled noses, and he would just laugh when I would duck when I said pullet. But Papa Ed played a hard game of “Calf-Rope”. I was the only granddaughter and he had raised two boys and been one of several brothers himself. Apparently he didn’t know that girls are softer more delicate creatures and squeal when pinned down under duress. Well, not every girl, but this one certainly did.

You see the whole object of Calf-Rope is to wrestle or torment your opponent until they “break” or “give up” admitting defeat. Papa would tickle and wrestle me down onto the floor as a young child to the glee of all the on-looking adults in the room until I was out of breath and laughing so hard that my face turned blue. At which time he is asking me: *Are you going to cry calf-rope yet?* Obviously at some point I had to “give-up” as he was decidedly the stronger participant. That was all well and good at about age 5 or so and absolutely the afternoon’s entertainment was to torment the grandkids back before television was the center of attention in the room. Papa Ed never let me “die” so I figured it was pretty safe to play Calf-Rope with him. You see whenever I said CALF-ROPE then Papa Ed would promptly stop the torment and give me a chance to catch my breath.

But then there was the inevitable game of Calf-Rope my Dad would bring on.

You see, Dad, my Papa Ed’s son, never learned to play Calf-Rope correctly evidently. He never got the part about when you say CALF-ROPE then he was supposed to stop tickling you so that you could get your breath. I hated playing calf-rope with my Dad because he just kept on and I thought I would die. I felt trapped. I couldn’t breathe. I said CALF-ROPE several times and he would still keep holding me down and tickling me. I wasn’t laughing and I was usually scared by the time he stopped the torment. It wasn’t a game to me at that point. It was survival. He didn’t play by the rules; it wasn’t fair.

In this life we have a lot more important situation going on than a rough family game every now and then. In fact, the wrestling match or warfare that we are in is a spiritual one and this one is for keeps.

The Bible, God's Word says:

***Ephesians 6:12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

The good news is:

***Romans 8: 35-39** tells us that "...We are more than conquerors through him that loved us..."*

The best thing is to avoid all of the unfair situations possible that the Devil wants to involve you in. You need to remember he NEVER plays fair.

But the scripture tells us that we WILL be involved in this spiritual warfare so we best be prepared. Remember that when you have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior then He will make you "more than a conqueror."

Be prepared; not scared. And be careful who you play Calf-Rope with.

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