

Benjamin and Grandpa's Old Barn



Benjamin had learned all the names for God. He liked to say the names, but he didn't really understand yet what all of them meant. The one about God being Love was the one he liked best because he could feel God's Love taking care of him everyday. He also liked the one about God being Mind because that meant that he reflected the Mind that was God, and he could know lots of things that he needed to know. That was a really neat one.

One day, Benjamin went to visit his grandparents who lived on an old farm. The farmland hadn't been used for many years to grow things, and all the old farm tools and machinery were stored in the cellar of the barn. Benjamin loved to play outdoors at the farm. There was a creek that ran through it, and he could see fish swimming around the rocks in the deep parts. Grandpa's old dog Duke loved to run out in the fields, with Benjamin following close behind.

But Benjamin's favorite place to play was in the old barn. It smelled like hay and the only light inside it came in through the spaces between the old barn boards. There were kitties that lived in the barn, and Benjamin liked to see if he could catch them and pet them. But one day something happened that wasn't so much fun. When Benjamin was playing, he didn't see that there was a big hole in the floor because it was covered over with hay. He stepped right into the hole and fell through the barn floor. Down, down, down he went until he landed on the cellar floor below.

It had been a very long fall, and there were sharp tools and machinery close by on which he could have landed. But instead of landing on these things that might have hurt him, he landed safely on the soft, dirt floor.

Unlike upstairs in the barn where there was light coming in, it was very dark down in the cellar. Benjamin could not see any stairs or even a ladder on which he could climb out. He was sure that Grandma and Grandpa did not know where he was. But maybe Grandpa was outside near the barn so he began to call out: "Grandpa! Grandpa!" But no one heard him and no one came to help.

Benjamin knew that God was right there with him because Jesus had said that God loved all his children. By knowing this Benjamin felt better and he wasn't afraid anymore. He knew that someone would find him.

The next time he called, "Grandpa!" he heard Duke barking. Then he heard his grandpa answer him from what seemed to be a long way off. In a short time his grandpa opened the door to the cellar that was locked from the outside. It had been so dark in the cellar that Benjamin didn't even know there was a door there. When the door opened, the sunshine poured in, and Duke came running over and gave Benjamin a big "hello" lick on his face. Grandpa was very happy to see Benjamin, too. He was grateful to God for keeping him safe from harm in his fall. After Benjamin finished telling Grandpa the whole story, he and Duke took off running out of the barn and into the field. He felt so warm and safe as he was running because he knew that God's Love was with him wherever he went.

Psalms 139: 9,10 "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."