

I sometimes purchase things randomly. I am not what some would call an impulse shopper, but on certain days there things seem to just pop up in front of me and I cannot resist the idea of not buying whatever it may be. Take for instance June 18, 2011; I had gone to the hardware store to purchase some items needed to finish a project at home. I was checking out at the register when I looked outside and saw two of the cutest little daschund puppies I had ever seen. Now my girls had been asking for one of these dogs for a while and now the opportunity presented itself. NO—I had not discussed this with my wife. NO—I had not thought about having a puppy that I and my wife would eventually be taking care of. NO—It never entered my mind that the day I purchased this lovable pooch was the day we were leaving for church camp for a week. NOT ONE of those things entered my mind. All I could visualize was me walking through the door with puppy I hand and bringing home the “bestest birthday present in the world” to my daughters.

I didn't take many things into consideration; I just bought this random puppy and took it home. Reader, the first night was not that bad. The puppy slept just about all night. The following day we took off for camp and one of our girls from the youth group who has a love for all animals, especially dogs, kept him for a week. All seemed to be glorious and good, that is until the animal woke us up at 2:30AM, 4:30AM, and then again at 6:00AM. Did the girls love this little bundle of joy—YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT! Did mom and dad love this little bundle of puppy joy—Well after a few days—NOT AS MUCH AS WE DID WHEN IT FIRST ARRIVED!

It's been several weeks since “Pete” arrived at our house and was welcomed with open arms. The girls still love him very much, even my wife has grown to love him and can be found snuggling with him on the couch watching some woman show on television. I am also proud to not be the only the male in the house now, however I'm not sure this little random purchase is worth all the trouble. He is not fully house trained yet—so you know what that means—he leaves us little puddles of joy on the new hardwood floors. He does not like his new abode in the “man cave” at night and his shrill whimpers and barks could most likely wake the dead. My wife and I have become the ones who take him out, make sure he has food and water, but when the girls are in the room we are not allowed to touch him. My two year old wags him around and pushes him in a stroller. My six year old wants to swim with him in the pool and my nine year old thinks the puppy just wants to eat her toes off. I'm thinking—this puppy that brought joy and smiles to my children's face—IS NOT WORTH ALL THE TROUBLE OF TAKING CARE OF HIM! I think I'll give him to the first band of gypsy's that passes by. He'll make a good gypsy puppy. He'll be good for them and they'll be good for him—RIGHT?

Now that I have got your attention; I'm not going to give the dog away. First and foremost—I like the little puppy—no really I do. My girls love him and even my wife, who didn't grow up with animals, loves little Pete. The things is we treat our spiritual life just like I wanted to treat Pete. We love it when it is new and then we allow satan to tell us how much trouble it is to maintain it and keep it up. Many times we just say, “It's too much trouble” and we give our faith away. We give satan exactly what he wants—our divided attention. Taking care of a puppy is a lot like taking care of a newborn babe and taking care of our spiritual life has the same aspects. We must stand fast in the faith and realize all the trouble we endure here has a far greater reward in eternal heaven. Yes there are going to be times when we struggle with our faith and yes there are going to be times when life will keep you up all hours of the night; when satan will leave potholes in your way; when your failures seem many; and when God's Word will be the only consistent thing in your life. BUT IT IS WORTH ALL THE TROUBLE.

I'm glad our family has Pete the puppy in our house. He has taught us all many lessons. I'm even happier that we and many of you have God in your life. Because it is through His Word and His promises that we are all able to endure and realize being a Christian is worth it and not any trouble at all when we know we are in Christ. May God bless you as you walk daily with Him and seek His guidance.