



Well, Christmas is over for another year. What a difference there is in our lives during those few days. It is a time when many of us get all wobbly and off-balance in a number of ways. Nod your head if you ate too much. Dear me, that seems like most of you who are reading these Doodles – including myself!

For many with young families, their finances can go all wobbly because too much money has been spent on buying gifts for their children that they cannot really afford to buy, so they end up paying off the debt for many months. Our time also goes wobbly. We think we will be able to do extra jobs in the house because of time off work, but it just does not seem to work out like that.



Sometimes in our lives other things can go wobbly and off-balance; one of those things being our relationship with God. If unexpected problems crop up, if there is a bereavement or if we are under pressure time-wise, then one of the things that can be the first to be omitted is our prayer-time. No matter what we might say or think about this, when we stop praying then our relationship with God changes. The intention could be, 'Just for a few days', but it is surprising how that time can get extended into weeks and maybe even months, before we realise what is happening. How God feels about us never changes, but our feelings about God can easily go wobbly and off-balance if we are not careful to guard our relationship with Him. If we think about it, it is at times such as these when we need a deeper relationship, not a diluted one, in order to be strengthened by God when we are struggling to stay on a straight line.



There are many instances recorded in the Bible of God's people going off-balance when sometimes God allowed things to happen to them because of their disobedience. After the Israelites had been brought out of Egypt by Moses, they could have made it to the Promised Land in a few weeks, but because they did their own thing instead of following God's guidance, they then ended up wandering around the wilderness for forty years. How sad, what a wobble!

Years before that the Israelites had disobeyed God's instructions not to inter-marry or get involved with the worship of other nations, the sad outcome being, 'The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart.'

(Genesis 6:6) The result of this was that God sent the flood. You would think that the Israelites would never have forgotten the awesome power of God after that, but unfortunately, as human beings, we push things like that out of our minds and do our own thing.



Later on we read how God allowed the Israelites to be taken into captivity by the Babylonians. Years away from their own land all because of their disobedience. God is not someone to be messed about with. We may not be able to see Him, but He can always see us and is aware of every move that we make, every word that we say and every thought that we have. He knows us intimately better than we know ourselves.





I would say that the saddest thing that happened because we go wobbly, was the death of Jesus. It really does not seem fair that Jesus was punished for the things that we do and say wrong. Even though God knew from the very beginning of time how things would turn out and had this plan in mind, it does not always seem to make sense to us. The deep love God has for each one of us is unimaginable. The lengths He goes to in order to save us from an eternity in Hell

are unbelievable. What a fantastic God we have! A God who is always there. A God who never gives up on us. A God who loves us no matter how we have messed up with our lives. A God who is willing to forgive us over and over and over and over again.

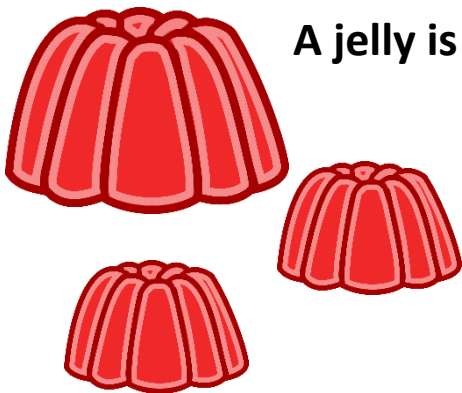


Our relationships with other people can sometimes go wobbly too. For various reasons, sometimes unintentionally, relationships can be spoiled. These are situations that God does not wish to see in our lives. Forgiveness forms a major part of some of the things that Jesus said and that others have written about in the New Testament. It is rather frightening that Jesus said that if we do not forgive then God will not forgive us.

We are sometimes excellent at quoting bits of scripture without completing them giving the related conditions! It can be extremely difficult to make up when a relationship has been broken, but the longer reconciliation is left, then the harder it becomes; the wobble seems to increase with time. I would hate to think that I would not have God's forgiveness because I have not made an attempt to put things right with someone if there had been a disagreement of some sort.



There may be other wobbles in our lives of which we are aware; maybe things that no-one else knows about. God is able to give us the strength to overcome things with which we struggle; struggles that may have been taking place for years. God has made us each as individuals and some can cope with situations whilst others are overwhelmed. He does not think any less of us when we are unable to cope. As we build up our relationship with Him our coping ability increases – even if there are still wobbles. In some cases it might seem to be a lifetime of wobbles. Keep trying and do not give up.



**A jelly is always wobbly, but we are not made of jelly!**

