

“Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.” Proverbs 3:3-4 NLT

## lectio // Proverbs 3:3-6

Great! Now I want a necklace or a tattoo that says “loyalty & kindness,” and I’m not a necklace, nor a tattoo kinda guy! The Hebrew word, *hesed*, or “loyal love” and *emeth*, or “truth/faithfulness” display these specific characteristics of God himself. If children heeded their parents’ teachings, they were promised a garland (some kind of head ornament) and a neck chain (gargeret). That is, heeding parental instruction would give them an attractiveness of life and position. From time to time, I would mention the importance of representing the family name, “Garvin,” to our children. It took years to turn around a background story that was filled with drunkenness, pain and even suicide. I wanted all my children to remember to wear these godly character qualities mentioned to honor Jesus and uphold the reputation of our family. Each one of them has done that! And each one has built a life, has favor with God and people, as well as and a good reputation on their own.

## oratio

Dad,

A lifetime of trusting you. A lifetime of learning how to live a life, as a son, to honor you. That loyal love and truth would be bound to my heart to make you proud. You are my everything and I am daily reminded of your love and faithfulness. My hope is to wear and bare that necklace of my soul that points to you in all areas of my life.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root