

Honesty is the Best Policy

“I’ve found only two things that last to the end, one is your heroes the other your friends.” These words by the country music singer Randy Travis so eloquently state what I have found to be true, trust is hard to come by. Since my youngest days I have always tried my best to trust others, while not always being trustworthy myself. It wasn’t until I reached my teenage years that I truly understood what it meant to be honest, both with myself and with others. I believe that your word is your bond, and once it is given you should stay true to it.

I’ve lived longer than I thought I ever would; however, I used to think that thirty was old. Yet, during my more than four decades on this earth I have found only a handful of people whom I would consider “friends.” They are the ones that like me for who I am, not what I am able to give them. They tolerate my idiosyncrasies, guide me into being a better person, and enhance my life in ways that seemed impossible in my youth, yet none of them would be around if I was not a man of my words.

I have only ever broken one promise since I made a pact with myself, on my eighteenth birthday, that I would never promise anything I couldn’t keep. This philosophy has put me in situations that were anything but pleasant, but has also been a blessing in so many ways. The promise I broke was to a dear friend at the time, and when it happened I thought little of it. It wasn’t until I witnessed the pain in her eyes that I understood exactly what it was that I had done.

It took me nearly twenty-five years to come to grips with this, and even though the incident was small, on the scale of all things in this world, it played a major role in

my future development. Seeing the hurt that I had caused brought me to the realization that in order to be a true friend, I had to keep my word.

It's not always easy, walking in the shadow of promises made, but it has taught me to never make a promise I am unable to keep, cherish those whom I make promises to, and if I do these things...if I show myself to be honest and true...the friends I have now will most certainly last 'til the end.