

Space Ray Pathfinders

#3 – Star Steps

“Rocket motors is something I love to talk about,” were the beginning words of Gramps just after the opening prayer was finished. All the preteen boys and girls eyes lit up to catch every word that followed. “The biggest engines on what's called the first stage are the biggest and are used for just long enough to get the rocket most of the way up through our atmosphere. The second stage engine is designed to work better where there is much less air to burn. That second stage engine has the job of speeding up the rocket faster than 20,000 miles per hour. If it doesn't do that, the rocket won't escape the gravitation of the Earth and it will fall back to the ground. The rocket would have no chance to head for the stars, or even any planets.”

The Space Ray Pathfinders clubbers were on the edge of their seats... actually on the edge of the hard benches they sat on. The silver-haired Gramps continued his lesson. “But I want this afternoon to tell you about a rocket motor small enough to hold in your hand. It's odd in how it works. This little motor works with electricity. Now an electric fan works by turning the electricity on and leaving it on, till we don't need the fan anymore. And we know that fan motor and blades go around and around and around.”

“But watch this. I'm going to move this little block of wood by just tapping it with my finger. Jake, will this block of wood get moved farther tapping it three times or six times?” Jake said, “Well, Gramps, I guess it would go twice as far tapping it six times, than the three times.” Gramps and most of the clubbers applauded Jake's correct answer.

Gramps continued the lesson with, “So this odd little motor that only runs on little taps or pulses of electricity, knows how far to turn by counting the number of pulses of electricity it gets. You could say it gets its job done in little amounts... sort of little by little. This small but very important 'little by little' electric motor is called a STEPPER Motor, since it moves in little steps and makes it possible to get a rocket launched toward the stars. Those little stepper motors are used in computer disk drives, computer printers, and many other things.”

The lesson continues. “The reasons we should all learn about the super importance of the stepper motor actions is for two reasons. First, the motor is not seen by hardly anyone. It doesn't make a lot of noise and flash like the launch engines burning all that fuel in seconds, but the little motor is just as important in keeping the rocket's computers storing data and providing commands to the big launch motors. The other reason is they move little by little; step by step.”

The clubbers asked Gramps more about the little stepper motors, and how important they were, to every launch and space stations.

The silver-haired club leader's heart was in maximum thrust asking God for the words yet to be said to the young souls sitting in front of him, hungry for truth and hope.

“Now the thing you and I need to learn is how God most often answers our prayers and meets our needs. It so happens, He does this little by little – according to His schedule, not ours.”

“In the Bible the phrase is not exactly like our 'little by little'. The Bible phrase is 'little and little'. The verses* tell us how God protects and provides for His people. And many other Bible verses remind us that you and I are supposed to lovingly obey His commands, step by step... little by little.” Gramps looked into the eyes of each of his preteen listeners and with the most heartfelt tones said, “God doesn't want loud flashy young people to tell Him they love Him. He wants us with a quiet steady step by step heart to share His love and plan with others around us.”

“Also, in the same way the little stepper motors help computers remember important facts and commands, we need to learn God's word and His will for our lives, little by little; verse by verse. Clubbers, I'll soon be 73 years old and the most important verse to learn and share is in John 3:16. It says, *'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'*”

Exodus 23:29, 30; Deuteronomy 7:22