**Begin to Build a Love Relationship With God:**

1. **Every day let God talk to you thru the Bible:** “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” II Peter 3:18 “Desire... the Word” I Peter 2:2

2. **Pray** asking God's help about problems, needs, stress, direction, relations, doubts, thankfulness...etc. “Casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you.” I Peter 5:7

3. **Daily confess known sins to God:** You can't lose eternal life, but sin will break your fellowship with God. “If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us” I John 1:9 Fellowship is restored!

4. **Share the good news of God's love in Jesus with others:** “Love... as I have loved you.” John 13:34

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**“You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.”**

Pete tried to break Rusty's will to bless him but he refused and suffered for his actions! God doesn't force anybody to be saved but loves you anyway and has provided you salvation from rebellion if you'll trust in Him! Jesus Christ is God in the flesh who took your place on the cross for your sins! He rose from the dead with total forgiveness and offers His friendship! **You decide:** “The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus” Rom. 6:23

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**Because of his hatred for man, Rusty was going to seriously hurt or kill someone someday!** Pete didn't want to have anyone's blood on his hands! Pete was left with no choice but to end the battle between him and Rusty. So one day Pete roped Rusty and tied him to a backhoe. He dragged Rusty kicking and fighting out to a field where a deep pit was dug earlier that day.

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**But Rusty refused to surrender his will!!** He did not fear man! Rusty had a deep-seated hatred for man and refused to yield any authority or control over his life! Pete could not calm him or create the trust needed for training him! He couldn't figure out what made him hate man so much! Rusty just didn't want Pete any where near him!
Definition of "HORSING AROUND"

1. To engage in joking, laughing, & pushing each other around

2. Fool around with someone; to not be serious about it

3. Play around roughly with or possibly abusing someone

5. Stay away from evil: Avoid evil people for friends, bad books and wrong thoughts. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." I Corinthians 15:33

6. Join a Bible believing Church: Be faithful in attending, and serve the Lord with gladness. "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" Acts 2:47

7. Give to the support of the Lord's work: Give your time, talent, and money in love to God's work. "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name" Psalm 29:2

8. Do NOT be discouraged: Temptations, disappointments, and persecution will come. Trust in Jesus who says, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

Pete was a cowboy at heart! He knew how to tame and train wild horses! He knew all the gentle methods on how to train a horse into submission! If that failed, he could also rough ride them into subjection. It was man versus beast... strong will over brute strength... bucking... kicking... a spine-crushing fight to the bitter end... a ride to a stand-still surrender!!!

TRUST GOD: BE SAVED FROM YOUR SIN TODAY!

"Dear God, I know that Jesus paid the penalty for my sins with His blood on the cross and forgave all my sins when He rose from the dead! I NOW receive Jesus as my Savior. Thank you for saving me from my sin and giving me the gift of eternal life! Amen."

Sign: Your Witness: Jesus Christ (Rev 1:5)

Today's Date: ________________ John 17:20-21

"... I ... pray for them ... which shall believe on Me"

When Pete's wooing, coaxing, and gentleness failed to gain his trust, he led Rusty into chest deep water to allow him to buck the rebellion out of his system. This provided safety for both the horse and Pete.

However, Rusty went over backwards down into the pond and tried to pin Pete under the water nearly drowning himself in the process!

With great sadness in his heart, Pete shot and killed Rusty. He then dumped him into the pit and buried him rope and all.

The short life of Rusty is like many people today that horse around and reject the Lord Jesus Christ who calls them from sin to salvation!

Rusty never came to terms with the rope, snubbing post, or the gentle, loving hands of Pete who loved him. He would rather die first!

More than that, Rusty would charge everyone that came into his corral, teeth flashing and hooves kicking, stomping at his hated enemy. He refused to be trained!

Since Rusty didn't trust and accept the true friendship of Pete, he missed out on rides through the sun-kissed meadows and the mountain trails strewn with wild flowers, action packed rodeos, hunting, sporting events, parades, or even race toward the triple crown in the Kentucky Derby!!!