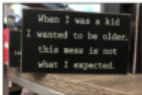




STEEL FAMILY UPDATE

Let's be honest. Some of you will read this. And some of you will just look at the pictures. So, for you picture people, I will give a few quick facts from 2015.



1. The picture of this sign is both hilarious and probably true.
2. Our children are getting too old. Lydia now steals Larry's shoes.
3. Recently, both of us had the humbling realization that we began 2015 individually praying for increased faith (our sign above is one how this has worked out).

Seriously though. This past year has stretched our family in new ways as well as forced us to grow into areas that we will treasure.

The YMCA & Perseverance

One of the wonderful things about the area we live in is the local YMCA. Along with a capital of other activities, the Y has two indoor pools. What the first time we went to swim in the pool, Autumn threatened that she would only be able to swim in the "baby" pool until she could pass the required swim test for the big pool.

The big pool had diving boards, a deep end, and a giant inflatable attack course. The big pool was the place to be. However, Autumn just couldn't pass her test. She was only allowed to take the test three times per visit to the pool. Yet every single time, without fail, she would reach about half way outside the life guard would pull her out.



Great hugs followed by crying and her screaming things like, "I am never going to pass the test", "I am just not good enough", and "I always fail." We would count ten, encourage her and 10 minutes later she would ask to take the test again. This happened three times every visit. Every time she failed, she was devastated. She took the test several dozens of times — visit after visit, week after week. I had to look forward to the crying, screaming, and disappointment every time I wanted to work out or take my kids for a "fun" activity at the pool — going to the Y became slightly miserable.

Until finally it happened — she passed. She did it. She persevered!

This year has felt a lot like that stupid swim test. Your idea dies, great hugs is followed by screaming disappointment. This is then followed up by screaming the exact same things as Autumn, "We are just not good enough", "We are never going to succeed at this", and "We always fail."

