

## **I Didn't Appreciate**

By Walker Moore

**As I get older, I realize there are things in my life  
I didn't appreciate until it was too late.**

**I didn't appreciate the naps  
they used to make me take in kindergarten.  
I long for the day when someone says,  
"You can't work anymore until you take a nap."  
" I guarantee you, I won't argue.**

**I didn't appreciate one-cent candy or milk  
that was delivered to your front door.  
In the "do-it-yourself" world  
we'll never see either of those again.**

**I didn't appreciate those face-squishing hugs  
my mother used to give me.  
Now that she's gone home to be with the Lord,  
I long for just one more.  
This time I would squish her right back.**

**I didn't appreciate the sacrifice  
my parents made for my brothers and me  
to keep us clothed, fed and happy.**

**I didn't appreciate the days I danced  
barefoot in the rain with my mouth open wide  
trying to get a drink of raindrops.**

**I didn't appreciate mom letting us  
mess up the living room on a rainy day.  
I thought building a tent with a secret tunnel  
is what everyone did on those days.**

**I didn't appreciate the marvels  
of planting a seed and watching it  
sprout into a full-grown plant.**

**I didn't appreciate the struggles  
we had to go through as a family.  
Because of yesterday's struggles,  
we have strength for today.**

**I didn't appreciate the times my sons came to me  
and asked those annoying, unanswerable questions.  
"What makes a duck quack?" "Why is the sky blue?"  
I had no idea they thought I was smart  
enough to answer all their questions.**

**I didn't appreciate the times  
our family had together.**

**I didn't appreciate those "primary" Sunday School teachers  
who went through so much trouble to collect toilet paper rolls  
so I could understand what a scroll was.**

**I didn't appreciate those clear nights  
when the stars danced with glee  
showing off their awesome Creator.**

**I didn't appreciate our son's "refrigerator artwork"  
that made our house a home.**

**I didn't know to appreciate the muddy footprints  
my wife and I so often found making a path  
across our carpet as a representation of life.**

**I didn't appreciate the times my children  
fell asleep in daddy's arms. I didn't realize  
it was there they felt protected  
from all the elements of the world.**

**I didn't appreciate my parents taking me to church,  
the place I found Jesus!**

**I didn't appreciate the ease at which I can access a Bible,  
while I know people who hunger for a single page.**

**And, even today, I can't fully appreciate  
what a great salvation I have.**