

# Right Under Your Nose...

By Brenda Williams

Have you ever searched for something only to discover it was right under your nose? I had the pleasure (?)

of experiencing just such an occurrence. It began at 6:50 a.m. (my normal morning departure time). I was on my way out the door when I reached for my keys. I looked down and found they weren't hanging from the ring on my purse handle.

**THEY WERE GONE!** This simple discovery launched an exhaustive search that rivaled the intensity of a crime scene investigation. After all, a crime had been committed. One offspring (I won't name names) had used the keys the night before to retrieve something left in the car. This person had violated the unwritten law, *"ALWAYS RETURN MOTHER'S KEYS TO THE PURSE RING."*

~~Needless to say, the above-mentioned~~ (nameless) person was immediately assigned the venerable *"in the doghouse"* designation and the search was on!

Where would a ring of keys most likely be placed? Floors, counters, drawers, tables and clothes baskets were searched. By this time it was obvious I would (at the very least) be late for work.

Okay, let's go over places previously searched. Now add closets, cabinets, computer desk and bathroom medicine cabinet shelves to the list. A recognizance team was sent outside to check the trunk lock and comb the path to the car.

Wastepaper baskets and the kitchen trash can received the "once over" along with windowsills and balcony railings.

Now you're saying to yourselves, she must be overlooking the obvious...

Sure. Easy for you to say. You're not two hours late for work and faced with the prospect of changing the locks on everything (materially speaking) you hold dear!

Well, by now I have set up a command center in a living room chair and dispatched the troops (four offspring) to every corner of the apartment with the intensity of an army drill sergeant. Those keys must be found!

By 9:00 a.m., it is obvious (to any self-respecting paranoid), that the keys have most likely been dropped outside and picked up by someone waiting for the opportunity to come in and wipe us out. Everyone is short of patience and eager to place blame on anyone but themselves.

"Well if *So and So'* had put the keys back, they wouldn't be lost right now."

"It's not our fault we can't find the keys because they're obviously not here."

I make the decision to call a locksmith and pay whatever he asks to change locks on my car (ignition and door) and apartment. I, once again, take up my "command post" and decide to dump my purse to make sure I have not overlooked the obvious. Just as I sit down and lean forward in the chair (to dump my purse contents on the floor), I hear someone say, "There are your keys!"

Yes. You're right. The keys have been under the chair cushion the entire time.

Ironically, it was the same chair from which I had barked orders and issued threats for most of the morning.

There are some lessons to be learned here:

1. Be careful where you place blame in a tense situation.
2. Always be kind and patient (even if you are two hours late for work).
3. Remember that you, too, have made mistakes.
4. Consider that you may be sitting right on top of the solution to your problem....
5. And, of course, there is the obvious solution that any spirit-filled believer should place **FIRST** on their list of ways to deal with difficult, baffling and (seemingly) hopeless problems... *"In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy path..."* (Proverbs 3:6)

Just think, if I had reacted with prayer (asking the Holy Spirit to guide me) in this situation, I could have avoided experiencing the resulting frustration and stress. By acknowledging the Lord first (a simple "Thank you Lord for directing me to my keys"), I would have removed possibility of failure and extinguished any existing feelings of hopelessness.

Giving thanks in the simplest (or most complex) of situations, is one of the best habits a believer can acquire. Besides, why not spend your time in prayer and praise instead of wasting time searching for things that are **RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE!**

