



Lucy and Daisy experience their first snowfall and pose for a picture between some pine trees on our property.

## Returning to your Father

This Month I am writing about a recent experience when hunting partridge with our two German Short-haired pointers a few weeks ago. Within the first hour of hunting in some beautiful country in Northern Michigan, we entered some difficult terrain and swamp. The dogs and I were separated and they were lost for the next five days.

This month we focus on Luke 15.

## Roaming and Afraid

We searched both day and well into each night for our dogs. They had been sighted at various points covering a six-mile square area. Local neighbors and business helped spread the word and watch for our two dogs. While our dogs traveled together, when they were approached by strangers, they would turn tail and run away. In fact, when I found them on the afternoon of the fifth day, they ran from me.

## Holding Back

It was a sunny and windy afternoon. In the sun and sheltered by the trees, temps were in the 60s. In the shade or out in the open, the wind was biting at 50 degrees. I was following a two track road, making my way back to an area where the dogs had been sighted the previous night. Emerging from some trees, to my left was a sunny field of wild grasses. With large pine trees serving as a wind break, I could see the white body of one of the dogs warming in the sun. Still hidden by the trees along the two-track I dropped to one knee to assess my next move. I whistled once. No movement. The winds were too high to be heard 40 yards away.

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Lucy and Daisy (4months old) sit on a blanket in our kitchen posing for another picture.

## Four Foundations.org

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I whistled louder the second time, to be heard over the wind. Daisy raised her head, looked at me, turned and ran. Lucy, reacting to Daisy's fleeing did the same in a different direction. I followed Lucy who retreated 200 yards away, down a hill and behind some cover. I could make out her tiny brown head looking at me as I sat down along the trail. Patches of white peeking through the leaves and vines as she hid behind the brush helped me keep track of any additional movements. Sitting on the ground I called to her, sang songs and encouraged her to return to me. After ten minutes she moved a couple feet.

Then she moved a little more. I could see her nose working the swirling wind trying to pick up my scent. Finally she broke and moved to within a hundred yards of me, looking up the hill, still trying to decide if she could trust and believe. What a homecoming when she finally ran into her Master's arms.

## Wanting to believe

With one dog found, I still had one to recover. With Lucy at my side we searched for another hour trying to find her sister and were not getting anywhere. Deciding to change our strategy, we returned to the cars planning to move one back to the road and camp at the remaining vehicle until dark. As my mom moved her truck she saw our second dog sitting down further down the two track road. Approaching the location of where the truck not idled, I could see our second dog 400 yards away, wind at her back sitting and trying to assess the situation. I knew exactly where she was sitting. I had left a dirty t-shirt of mine in that location overnight. I had hoped that if the dogs had come through the area, they would catch my scent and stay nearby. Daisy wanted to believe it was her Master, but she wasn't willing to trust it was me. Moving into position where she could see me, her sister and pick up my scent, she finally returned to me.



Lucy holds point on partridge hiding in cover nearby. Eric moves into position to flush the hiding bird.

## Choice and Faith

The decision to follow God as our Lord and Savior is our choice to make. We make that choice regardless of which way the wind is blowing and what kind of proof we think we might need. Proverbs 3 v 5 reminds us to "trust" in the Lord and in Hebrews 11 we are instructed in our Faith.

When Daisy and Lucy returned to their Master there was a great celebration. If you should choose to make the choice to follow God, Luke 15 v 7 speaks to the celebration that takes place in Heaven. If you made the choice today, contact us at [info@fourfoundations.org](mailto:info@fourfoundations.org).

**"FourFoundations.org** was founded to guide individuals and households to make Christ-centered choices in life. Successful households are built on Four Foundations: Faith, Family, Finances and Fidelity."