

Finger Nail Polish & Recovery!

Michele and I had the opportunity to spend some wonderful quality time with one of our amazing granddaughters last weekend. Who'd have thought a little 3-year-old would be teaching her Lolli and Gpa a lesson in BRIGHT Nail Polish colors as well as recovery? But she did. Not directly but indirectly.

It was an exciting time, especially for her (LOL), as her excitement was bubbling over, she desperately pleaded with me to paint my nails (She had proudly already completed all 10 of Lolli's). I first said NO, resisted as best I could, didn't think I needed my nails painted, especially bright pink! But how could I turn down that beautiful smile and face? The more I did the more she pleaded with me. After, what seemed to be an hour of back and forth, I finally gave in and negotiated to one nail, and the color would be blue. It was of course my biggest one, my thumb! Well one thumb turned into two. I thought ok I conceded a little, she is happy and I still have 8 manly finger nails left. NOPE. She wanted more. She kind of really "wanted" more. So Gpa gave in, and agreed to the smallest nail. My pinky. Figured the smallest would be the least obvious. Again, NOPE. She wanted both pinky's! And trust me, pinky's are a big deal on our family. Anyway, I reluctantly agreed (well not really – again, how could I say no to that face?) to two pinky's and two thumb nails now being BRIGHT BLUE!

How's this even relevant you may ask? Well after we left there, Gpa and Lolli both with colorful nails, it started to hit me. Yes, many folks looked at me a little weird. One person in a zoom group of 35 people, even asked in the chat box, "does Tom really have finger nail polish on?" So, there was a point of embarrassment mixed with pride of the beautiful work of my 3-year-old granddaughter! But as the days went by, I could see the beautiful and colorful nails were starting to chip away and fade. Each day a bit more. Some around the top edges, some on the side but the fade continued.

The chipping away, first barely noticeable, became more and more obvious. Like recovery, we jump in, sometimes reluctantly, sometimes with a "negotiating" mindset, resisting but eventually committing to the process. But, as shame kicks in and the reality of the "brightness" of our situation hits home, we wonder. What is next? How will these "nails" be received or look at? But as the days go by so does the polish. Slowly chipping away, slowly fading. Like recovery, if we do not maintain our nails of recovery, we will become complacent and we will start to experience that slow fade. Not immediately, and maybe unbeknownst to ourselves, but others start noticing. Noticing the old patterns are slowly returning. And before we know it, our recovery has faded and we have returned to the place we swore we never would! Recovery is an ALL IN Mentality. As Mark Denison says "if you're 90% in you are 100% OUT!" We can never become complacent with recovery, let it slowly fade and erode our integrity. We must maintain it at all costs, not let it wear off over time! We cannot be under the false illusion that a one-time cosmetic fix will last a lifetime. We must work a lifetime and continue the walk, in hopes that one day, when we go home to our Father, we then, will be fixed. Until then, it is 100% in, all day every day!