

Missionary Youth

Magazine for Pastor's Kids - Dutch Caribbean Union— Year 2022



Magazine **MISSIONARY YOUTH** is both a challenge and desire that all our children and pastor's kids may be filled with the Holy Spirit from an early age, to be a spokesperson for God wherever they are, and follow in the footsteps of their Master Jesus Christ.



Content:

- 😊 "You And Your Health"
- 😊 "Walking Billboards"
- 😊 "Child Preachers"
- 😊 "If There's A Will, There's A Way!"
- 😊 "I Will Die For You!"
- 😊 "Building Blocks Of Character"
- 😊 "Lessons Learned From A Short Man"
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EVERY MOVEMENT WE MAKE IN RESPONSE TO GOD has a ripple effect, touching family, neighbors, friends, community. Belief in God alters our language. Love of God affects daily relationships. Hope in God enters into our work. Also their opposites— unbelief, indifference, and despair. None of these movements and responses, beliefs and prayers, gestures and searches, can be confined to the soul. They spill out and make history. If they don't, they are under suspicion of being fantasies at best, hypocrisies at worst. (Foreword to Philemon, TM).

Biblical history has its collection of saints, and we can learn the good, the bad, the ugly from each of their lives, but we will focus on two. People, “common” people, like us, with their different responsibilities and calling. Some, later on highly regarded, but they were still human beings with their frailties and challenges, with their moods and their choosing. With their successes and their failures, even bad failures!

Do you struggle as a pastor's kid? Do you sometimes get frustrated with yourself? It is something normal. We all pass through that, young, old, pastor's, their wives, their children, other people's children... Like the morning watch I read that says: “*God intentionally guides people into failure. He made us be born as little kids who can't walk or talk or even use a bathroom correctly. We have to be taught everything. All that learning takes time, and He made us so we are dependent on Him, our parents, and each other. The whole thing is designed so we try again and again until we finally get it right. And the whole time He is endlessly patient.*” (Vanessa Pizzuto, *NO FEARS, NO CHAINS*, p. 66).

But you need to stick it out, staying with God's plans so you'll be there for the promised completion. It won't be long now, he's on the way; he'll show up most any minute. But anyone who is right with me thrives on loyal trust; if he cuts and runs, [God says], I won't be very happy. But we're not quitters who lose out. Oh, no! We'll stay with it and survive, trusting all the way (Hebrews 10:39, TM).

With love,

Anna Maria Manuela Croes



YOU AND YOUR HEALTH



G

et enough sleep. When you don't rest well, you compensate by eating more. Usually, it's junk food. Get enough rest and you don't need to snack to stay awake. Also, lack of sleep causes premature aging and you don't want that! ¹

HAVING PROBLEM WITH INSOMNIA?

Feeling sleepy? You're not alone. According to the CDC, on any given day, as many as one in five adults suffers from an insufficient amount of sleep! Insomnia affects adolescents, adults and the elderly. And as we age, sleep can become even more elusive, so developing good sleep habits when you're younger can pay off later in life.

Many people think the term "insomnia" refers to a complete lack of sleep. In truth, insomnia encompasses a host of sleep problems, including:

- Difficulty falling asleep
- Waking up in the middle of the night
- Early morning awakening
- Non-restful sleep

Most people need between seven and nine hours of sleep. Getting insufficient sleep can:

- Cause fatigue, irritability, and excessive daytime sleepiness.
- Cause weight gain and make it difficult to lose weight.
- Weaken the immune system, making you more susceptible to getting sick.
- Cause elevated blood pressure and can increase the risk of diabetes and heart disease.

- Contribute to chronic pain.
- Exacerbate mental illness, including depression and anxiety.
- Reduce focus and concentration, leading to decreased performance at work.
- Decrease motor function, making driving hazardous.

Meds can be good for some things. And certainly some natural or herbal sleep products may help you get some rest. But prescription pills for sleeping aren't always the best solution.

Unfortunately, some sleep medications can actually make the problem worse. Sleep aids frequently disrupt sleep cycles, causing less restorative sleep. Even if they help you sleep through the night, the sleep is not necessarily deep or restful. People can become dependent on these meds, requiring them to sleep, **and many develop a tolerance to sleep meds over time, requiring more medication to get the same effect.** These meds can also cause rebound insomnia, meaning it becomes even harder to fall asleep without the medication.

So before you pop that pill for your sleep problems, try these methods instead:

1. Sleep Hygiene.
2. Brief Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Intervention for Insomnia (also called "CBT-I"), which will be covered in part two of this series on insomnia.

Sleep hygiene is a collection of habits that can help you fall asleep more easily and sleep more deeply. You can develop good sleep hygiene on your own. Try following our [7 Habits of Highly Successful Sleepers](#) and this list of do's and don'ts.

The Do's:

- Stick to a regular sleep schedule (same bedtime and wake-up time), seven days a week.
- Exercise at least 30 minutes per day most days of the week. Restrict vigorous exercise to the morning or afternoon... Get plenty of natural light exposure during the day. Open your blinds first thing in the morning and get outside during the day. You can even try using a light box first thing in the morning during dark winter days to help your brain wake up and regulate your body's rhythms.
- Establish a regular, relaxing bedtime routine.
- Take a warm bath or shower before bed.
- Do some light relaxation exercises before bed, including [mindful breathing](#) and also do some progressive muscle relaxation exercises.
- Make sure your [sleep environment](#) is pleasant and relaxing. Your bed should be comfortable, and your room shouldn't be too hot, too cold, or too bright. If necessary, use earplugs and an eyemask. Be sure your pillow is comfortable.
- Associate your bed with sleep and sex only. Don't work, eat or watch TV in bed.
- Go to bed when sleepy, and get out of bed if you're tossing and turning.
- Turn your clock around so you can't see the time.
- Turn off the alert for texts and emails on your phone.
- Keep a "worry journal." If something's on your mind as you're trying to fall asleep, write it down on a pad of paper so you can revisit it the next day.
- If you're unable to fall asleep after about 20 minutes, leave your bed and do something relaxing (like reading); return to bed later.

The Don'ts:

- * Don't ingest caffeine after noon. This includes coffee, tea, iced tea, energy drinks and soda.
- * Don't take stimulants close to bedtime, including chocolate, nicotine and certain medications.
- Don't eat a large, heavy meal close to bedtime.
- Don't watch TV, use the computer or spend long periods on a mobile device before bed. These activities stimulate the brain and make it harder to fall asleep.

- Don't use your phone, laptop, or other mobile device in bed.
- Don't give in to the urge to nap during the day; it can disturb the normal sleep/wakefulness pattern.

3 tips for how to recover quickly and efficiently from a single, sleepless night:²

1. **Change the narrative around sleep.** It's good to prioritize sleep—particularly because [getting sufficient sleep](#) is linked to the health of so many body systems—but be wary of over-prioritizing it or putting it on a pedestal. "I always tell my patients not to turn sleep into an unrequited love," says Dr. Tal. "The more you chase sleep and let it balloon into something that you desperately want but can't have, the more you'll effectively scare it away." Instead, make the active mental decision to be okay with a fitful or sleep-free night every now and then, and view each night as another positive opportunity to get the sleep you need. (Again, this is a different situation from [chronic or comorbid insomnia](#), both of which should be treated with support from a medical professional.)
2. **Take a power nap the next afternoon.** If you feel super sleepy the day after an all-nighter (which [won't always be the case](#), by the way), you might consider [taking a power nap](#) to help reset your body and restore some alertness.
3. **Get back on your usual sleep schedule** the next night—and don't overcompensate. Returning to your usual sleep pattern the night after a bout of your sleeplessness will help preserve your [circadian rhythm](#) (which is your internal 24-hour clock that causes you to get sleepy around the same time each night and wake up around the same time each morning). If you feel extra-tired in the evening following your sleep-free night, you *can* go to bed a bit sooner, but Dr. Tal recommends not adjusting your usual bedtime more than an hour.

1 [How to Relieve Insomnia Without Medication: Part 1 | One Medical](#)

2 [Here's How Long It Takes To Recover From Sleep Deprivation | Well+Good \(wellandgood.com\)](#)

WALKING BILLBOARDS



Billboards are meant to be simple, engaging, and creative... Most people don't think much about it, but you are a walking billboard. Everything you do and every piece of information you put out there is part of your personal brand, and it's important for everything to reflect the same image and vibe. Never forget that you have the power to change how people see you. [It's really empowering](#) when you realize that you control everything you put out there including how people see you and what perception you give off. ¹

Think about how often we judge people almost immediately based on their appearance. Clothing is a tool which can help you take control of how people see you and manipulate their viewpoint. Do you want to appear as a strong, knowledgeable, and confident individual? Your clothing can help with that! Part of being a walking billboard is being confident in who you are, what you believe in, and what your personal brand represents.

WE ARE CHRISTIAN BILLBOARDS

² "Dress and ornaments are not merely external coverings; they touch the inner self... The subject of dress and adornment is sensitive because it touches what some people treasure most, namely, their pride and vanity. What we wear is very much a part of who we are. Our clothes and ornaments reveal not only our social, economic, and educational levels, but also our moral values. What we wear tells what we want the world to believe about us. Most people want the world to admire their outward appearance, not to criticize it.

But the Christian has a lifestyle or is supposed to have one to represent Christ and his moral values.

³ *"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels"* ([Isaiah 61:10](#)).

... men and women in the Scriptures. [We can see] where prophets wore rough clothing; kings' children wore dainty clothing; harlots wore deceitful clothing and the poor were content just to have cloth to cover their bodies.

⁴ Whenever your decisions are guided by selfishness rather than love for Christ, it's as if you're walking around in ugly clothes and not even realizing how distasteful you seem to other people. But when you take off selfish attitudes and put on Christian virtues, others can see incredible beauty when they encounter you.

Here's how you can put on spiritual clothes that reflect Christ's character:

Recognize that God has chosen you to wear these clothes. God has chosen you to go on this spiritual journey of developing Christ's character. You don't need to be overwhelmed at the thought of how much you need to grow as a person to develop holy virtues to wear, because God knows exactly what kind of help you need, and He will empower you every step of the way.

Invite God to fit you for these clothes. Fitting into spiritual clothes doesn't happen just by trying to manage your behavior; it becomes possible when you invite God to transform you from the inside out, making you holy. When you cooperate with God's work in your life to change your soul for the better, you'll naturally be able to fit into the spiritual clothes that He wants you to wear.

Discover the secret to wearing these clothes well. Fill your mind with thoughts about the reality of God's deep, unconditional love for you. The knowledge of God's love is the secret to wearing spiritual clothes well, because it gives you the confidence and freedom you need to develop Christian virtues. Rather than being afraid of failing in your own efforts to modify your behavior, you're free to enjoy the process of God working in your life, trusting that His work won't fail.



Take off your old clothes. Take a hard look at yourself in a spiritual mirror to notice what kinds of clothes you're currently wearing that God doesn't want you to wear. Ask family members and friends who know you well to be honest with you about ways God may want you to change your character. Strip off ugly garments such as pride, anger, bitterness, lust, greed, lying, worry, and impatience by confessing them and repenting of them in [prayer](#) to God.

[Put on Spiritual Clothes \(crosswalk.com\)](#)

Put on forgiveness. Accept the forgiveness that God offers you when you repent, and let your gratitude for His forgiveness motivate you obey His command to forgive other people who have hurt you. Keep in mind that, even when you don't feel like forgiving someone, you can always make the choice to start the forgiveness process despite your feelings, and then rely on God's help to forgive every step of the way. Accepting God's forgiveness for your own sins that you've repented of will free you from guilt and shame, and forgiving others who have sinned against you will clear the poison of bitterness out of your soul – which all will make it possible for you to grow closer to God.

Put on peace. Start by making sure that you've begun a relationship with Christ as your Lord and Savior, placing all of your trust in Him. You can experience peace only when you're in right relationship with God through Christ – one that's unbroken by sin, because Christ has paid the price of sin for you. Whenever the stress of life in this fallen world disrupts your sense of peace, pray for peace, and Christ will faithfully give you a fresh dose of the peace that only He can give. Since God Himself is your peace, ask the [Holy Spirit](#) to make you aware of His constant presence with you, and let that awareness give you peace strong enough to overcome any stressful feelings you go through. Do your best to faithfully live the way God calls you to live in every part of your life, since faithful choices naturally lead to life that's free of unnecessary stress.

Put on kindness. Rather than looking out just for your own interests, look out for the interests of other people. Ask God to help you notice when people need encouragement, comfort, and help, and take advantage of every opportunity that God brings your way to respond to their needs with kind words and actions. Keep in mind that God showed kindness to you by having mercy on you and sending Christ to die for your sins so you could be saved.

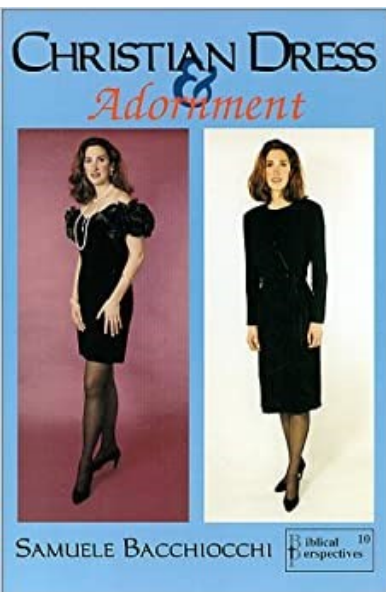
Put on humility. Just as Christ humbled Himself to leave heaven and come to Earth to serve people, you should follow His example by relinquishing your rights when doing so will help you serve others. Ask God to reveal pride that is preventing you from developing humility; then confess and repent of that pride. Abandon your selfish ambitions so you can join God in the humble yet powerful work of helping others.

Put on compassion. Ask God to help you notice the needs of the people He wants you to help, and to give you a desire to help them so you can reach out in love instead of just a sense of duty. Reflect on all the ways you've personally suffered in the past, and ask God to show you how you can help other people who are currently suffering in similar ways. Learn about the needs of the people around you; listen to their stories. Don't hesitate to take action whenever you sense God leading you to help people in need.

Put on patience. Reflect on your life to consider the many ways in which God has been patient with you, and let your gratitude for His patience motivate you answer His call to be patient with other people. Pray for the Holy Spirit's help to invest in the lives of the people around you and develop patience as you make sacrifices to build stronger relationships.

Put on joy. Worldly pursuits can bring you clothes of happiness that you can temporarily wear, but they'll inevitably fade away, leaving you feeling naked and desperately searching for the next new thing that can cover you with a sense of happiness for a while again. But the joy that God will clothe you with has the power to last, no matter how your circumstances change. You can put on joy when you've responded to God's love by putting on the other virtues. Once you experience the many ways those virtues make your life beautiful, you'll enjoy your life.





“God’s original creation of human and heavenly beings was perfect in function, design, and beauty. There was no need of cosmetic “makeup” or ornaments to cover up or improve the outward appearance of His creatures. (p. 43)

⁵ “Powder and paint do not cover up the inner corruption of the heart, nor do silk and satins hide the ugly stains of the soul. Jezebel was corrupt within in spite of all her efforts at outward beautification. God looks at the heart and asks for inward adorning rather than outward (1 Peter 3:3).

“A Woman’s dress is a mirror of her mind.”

Ellen White wrote, “A person’s character is judged by his/ her style of dress. A refined taste, a cultivated mind, will be revealed in the choice of simple and appropriate attire.” (Ed 248)

“A Christian woman needs to remember that her charm lies not only in what she reveals but also in what she conceals. A woman who dresses to show her physical and sexual appeal encourages men to treat her as a sex object... ‘Obedience to fashion... Is doing more than any other power to separate our people from God’” (4T 647)

“Clothes do not make a Christian, but Christians reveal their identity through their clothes and appearance. (4T 169)

“People act as they dress”

“Dressing for God’s glory is not something horribly difficult. But it does take willingness on our part to let Him change our attitudes. (p. 194)

“As Christians we reveal the loveliness of His [Christ’s] character by dressing modestly, decently, and becomingly, avoiding glittering ornaments. Our outward appearance is a constant silent witness of our Christian identity. It tells the world that we live to glorify God and not to glorify ourselves. (Samuele Bacchiocchi, *Dress & Ornaments*, p. 20)

TO PONDER UPON:

What we put on inside and outside the house tells its own story. When we go to school, when we go to our job, when we go to the supermarket, the mall, the music class, to camp, to children and youth programs, when we go on an outing, what message do we give? Is there a difference between you and the worldling? Either you are a girl or a grown up pastor’s child, either male or female, ask yourself:

- Do I dress decently?
- Girls, are your clothes transparent to show off what you have underneath, or are you well covered?
- When you pick up something from the floor, do you bend decently?
- When you sit, do you do so with feet together and with your clothes beneath the knee? Especially so when you are on the platform?
- Are you clothed but still “naked” because of the fabric of the clothes?
- Boys, young men, does it make any difference where you walk, stand, sit? Does it make any difference what you put on?
- Do your clothes indicate that you consider yourself a worthwhile fellow?
- Do they help increase your self-respect? Self-confidence? Self-image?
- Do they send out a truthful message to others, or are they portraying a false image of poverty and “artificial humility”?
- Will they affect your witness for Christ? ⁶

“Our words, our actions, our deportment, our dress, everything, should preach. Not only with our words should we speak to the people, but everything pertaining to our person should be a sermon to them, that right impressions may be made upon them, and that the truth spoken may be taken by them to their homes. Thus our faith will stand in a better light before the community” ⁷

¹ [Lessons learned from a Walking Billboard - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

² *Christian Dress & Adornment* by Samuele Bacchiocchi, p. 11

³ [BIBLE WARDROBES AND THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN’S SPIRITUAL CLOTHING – Lesson 13 – THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN’S SPIRITUAL WARDROBE – Part 2 | MULIEBRAL VIEWPOINT \(helpmeettohim.org\)](#)

⁴ [Put on Spiritual Clothes \(crosswalk.com\)](#)

⁵ *Christian Dress & Adornment* by Samuele Bacchiocchi

⁶ *Man in demand*, p. 27, 54

⁷ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 610-613, 618

CHILD PREACHERS



AS CHILDREN, ONE OF OUR DREAMS IS TO BECOME A MESSENGER FOR CHRIST. So often we wonder, what to do? How to preach the gospel of Christ and bring millions to the fold as the disciples did.

We start to write the requirements to become a preacher. One, I need to be a good public speaker, two, join the Sabbath School program to learn how to speak in front of a congregation. After many failures, sweats, nervousness, you can become frustrated and wonder if you could ever become a child preacher or a preacher.

Bringing the lost into the kingdom of God? The dream most of the time, shattered. Disappointed, without hope that you do not have the gift to become a preacher/speaker. Seeing others become better than you. Child preachers, eloquent speakers, open their mouths and bring the lost to Christ, right?

Irrelevant, total nonsense! The importance does not lie in the title of becoming a child preacher, and I'm here to elevate your mind. The importance does not lie in how well you can speak in front of a group. The importance is not in the title you hold, child preachers, ADRA helper, you name it. *It is in the life that you live outside of the preaching.* Not all of us have the same talents, and not all of us are equipped to preach. This article is here to tell someone, it is okay. It is fine to not be a preacher. If God wanted only preachers on this earth, then this earth would have been out of balance.

The Disciples

Sometimes things happen in church, that pastors or preachers cannot help with, like in [Acts 11:29](#). One of the prophets got a vision that there will be famine in the land. So, the biblical text says: "Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea" (KJV). As this text shows, sometimes preaching is not the only talent/ gift that can turn and help others to Christ. In the moment of famine, the disciples could have gone and preached, but this is not what the people needed. All of them were good preachers, but that was not needed for this occasion. The insignificant talents/ gifts that they had, helped to relieve those that were suffering from urgent needs. Your talent/ gift may seem insignificant, yet, it is useful in front of the Lord. So don't be discouraged, our Lord God has a purpose for each of us on this earth. If you are still unconvinced, let us continue.

God's Handiwork

[Ephesians 2:10](#) says; "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"(NIV). I like the translation of this text from "*The Message*" (MSG), it says from verses 7 to 10.

"Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing". ([Ephesians 2: 7-10](#), *The Message*)

So as the text says, you do not have to worry about your talents, or what gifts you have, to bring people to Christ, because Christ Jesus has everything in control. He already knows what he needs from each of us, the gifts that he gave us are special in their own way. All you have to do is trust in him.

The Sanctuary

[Exodus 35:10](#) says; "And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded" (KJV). The sanctuary was an important part of God's plan for Israel in Moses's time. He asked Moses to find the artisans that could make his sanctuary, he didn't ask for

those that could speak well, he asked for those people that were able to make the best of the best for his "Church" so that He could dwell there. As you can see, God always knows what he wants from each of us. All we have to do is trust in him, and let him dwell in our heart, our home, and our minds.

As children, you can also make an impact and it does not have to be preaching. It is insignificant to become a child preacher. The little maid made an impact on others, and then the nations, with just a few attributes.



The Little Maid

In [2 Kings 5](#), we see the story of the young slave that cared for the wife of Naaman, she did not have the power of speech. She might have not even had the ability to speak her mind at all times. She was a slave in a foreign country, she was a child and a woman, and she was a prisoner of war. (Shipp, 2020) Three attributes that made her the least important person in the household of Naaman. As cited in Bronner, 1994; Hendel, 2008 "The anonymity of the maid and mistress reveals how the identity of women was viewed in Hebrew culture. The identity of male figures in the biblical narrative is consistent with biblical patriarchy. Men had a primary voice while women were secondary. The anonymity of women is consistent with the use of archetypes in narratives" (Shipp, 2020). This is just to show, how in the old testament, how little say a woman had in the Bible. So the courage that the little maid had to have to speak and say that someone she knows, might be able to cure her master.

First of all, why? She was a slave, if the master died, she could have been free, or had a better master. The little maid had two characteristics that made God use her, for his glory. One was *courage*. It took courage to even say something to her mistress. The second one was a *caring nature*; she cared so much for her mistress, to the point that she wanted to see that family happy. This was so marvelous, we need to remember, one, she is captive in a foreign country (Syria) away from Israel. Syria and her home country are enemies, she is the servant of one of the generals of Syria, that destroyed and killed Israeli soldiers. She could have become like those movies, a “hero for Israel” and poison Naaman.

Second, she is a Jew, that might not be able to practice her faith as she would want to. She is now a servant, that is far away from her family, and land, she would never see them again. She is scared and desolate. There were so many scenarios against her, but still, her kindness and caring nature prevails. To the point that she tells Naaman, that she knows about a prophet that can cure his leprosy. “*Who you are is not important, but who you serve is what matters*” (Shipp, 2020). Smith, 1994; von Rad, 1977; says that the little maid was only mentioned once in the whole story of Naaman, but still, her influence, her character, changed the whole narrative of the story of Naaman and his family (Shipp, 2020).

The little maid also shows attributes of discipleship.

As a young, slave girl, she was helpless in like manner to Israel that was subdued by Syria (Menn, 2008). She is an example that many youths face challenges beyond their control. Therefore, biblical instruction must begin in the home. The necessity of parental discipleship can be found in scriptures such as Deut. 6:6-9, Prov. 22:6, and 2 Tim. 3:14-15. Clarke (1837) states, “And see the benefits of religious education! Had not this little maid been brought up in the knowledge of the true God, she had not been the instrument of so great a salvation” (p. 500).

Parents do not know how God will use their children for his glory. What the little maid heard left such an impression that she was able to share with others. Brueggemann (2007) suggests that the little maid is an evangelist who helped create a narrative of hope rooted in the one true God within the Syrian community. The same boldness can be seen in the life of Daniel and the three Hebrew boys (Daniel 1).

Children are listening. The goodness of God must be shared with them continuously. Consequently, God strategically sends those who are willing into cultural contexts where opportunities for discipleship and evangelism are plentiful (Brueggemann, 2004) (Shipp, 2020).



God has a purpose for each of us in our life, something that might seem unassuming, unimportant, as the little maid’s kind and caring nature can change a nation.

In conclusion, we all have talents, gifts that might have nothing to do with preaching as children. Still, God can use us for his glory, to turn a nation as the little maid did in Syria. To help famine in a faraway country like the disciples did or take part in the building of the sanctuary. The preaching of the gospel is important but let us not forget the “small” gifts that we have. Those that nobody will see or hear, the gifts that you think will not change someone’s life. Start at your school, work, church, our gifts can make a difference, if you believe, that God paves the way for you, to be the change.

Written by: Claudienne Presentacion-Gudge

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WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY!

BE THE SERMON



Thousands of Seventh-day Adventists impacted their communities in more than 100 countries on Saturday, March 18 during the annual Global Youth Day event. ¹

The effort, which was organized by the Youth Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, served as the kick-off for the church's Youth Week of Prayer titled "Revolution - The Reformation that Changed the World."

Adventist youth went the extra mile doing community service work throughout the month of March which culminated in the March 18 Global Youth Day Sabbath.

As pictures and videos were shared on social media with the hashtag #GYD17, the campaign generated an impact of more than 137 million impressions across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The social media strategy, which was implemented by the communication department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, broke an Adventist Church record for social media engagement.

Sam Neves, associate director of communication for the Seventh-day Adventist World Church said, "We are a global church: 20 million members, 924 languages, 150,000 local congregations in 208 countries and territories. Global Youth Day is the greatest opportunity we have to experience unity as we come together under the singular mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our communities."

Sam Gungaloo, a pastor in South England and Kehrys Sterling from Vancouver Canada, hosted the 24 hour broadcast from the Global Youth Day set—an airplane appropriately called "AirGYD". Starting off at Stimme der Hoffnug, which runs the Hope Channel in Germany, AirGYD virtually "flew" around the world reporting on #GYD17 outreach during the live, online video feed. The 24 hour show was broadcast through the Hope Channel and YouTube Live.

AirGYD captain and associate youth director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pako Mokgwane, was featured throughout the day in inspiring and entertaining updates from the AirGYD cockpit and cabin.

This year's service theme was to give blood. People were reminded that for every one pint of blood, three lives can be saved. Young Adventists responded very generously to the global blood drive. Young people around the world also found other ways to "Be the Sermon" in their communities.

Youth in Australia mowed lawns for neighbors. Taiwanese youth cheered up new friends in nursing homes. In Spain, Madrid-based youth ran a "Love Expo" where passersby could learn more about how to express love to others through their own "love language."

Presenters in Peru highlighted flash flood relief efforts and a special prayer by AirGYD cabin crew was offered up in support of those who had lost so much in the natural disaster.

A broadcast from inside a Kenyan prison for #GYD17 generated a lot of discussion on how to help prisoners. A panel of young people based in Silver Spring, Maryland reflected on how many Biblical heroes were imprisoned for their faith.

Sabbath Sofas were also a global #GYD17 hit. In several different locations around Great Britain, Adventist young people put sofas in places that got heavy foot traffic. The Sabbath Sofa teams promote Sabbath rest by inviting grateful passersby to sit down and have a break and a chat.

As the 24-hour marathon of a day wrapped up, AirGYD co-pilot and Seventh-day Adventist World Church general vice president, Abner De Los Santos, reminded the live global viewership that #GYD17 was about so much more than just a day. He encouraged Adventist youth to make this kind of service a lifestyle.

A motivated team led by the Youth Ministries department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church helped ensure that #GYD17 was a success.

The large team also included the mastermind behind the transmission strategy and engineering, Daryl Gungadoo, global distribution manager for Adventist World Radio.

Reflecting on the day, Mokgwane said, "The youth can be trusted. All they need is a chance. GYD offers a platform for them to express their giftedness. This year, they took creativity to the next level. GYD should not be an event. It must be a lifestyle. It gets more people asking, 'Who are you?' This question opens an chance for a good conversation about the love of Jesus."

Seventh-day Adventist World Church president Ted N.C. Wilson participated in Global Youth Day in North America.

"It's just a powerful thing at the very end of time here before Jesus comes to be able to share the Three Angels' messages in practical ways as well as in preaching.



² “People will respect you a lot if they see that what you are saying is what you are also doing. Pastor Wilson called the outreach Total Youth Involvement, everybody doing something for Jesus.”

GEMS FROM THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

“The Lord sanctions the efforts of the consecrated worker, the true shepherd. He may have little time to preach discourses, but he can act sermons which will be far more powerful. The truth expressed in living, unselfish deeds is the strongest argument for Christianity” (*Counsels on Health*, p. 537).

“Our words and actions constitute the fruit we bear. *A consecrated life is a daily, living sermon*” (4T 609). Emphasis supplied.

“The most effective sermon you preached was when you lived the principles of the truth in your own family and revealed your earnest devotion to the work” (2SM 201).

THE HUMBLE DEPENDENCE OF TIMOTHY ³

“In the history of Timothy are found precious lessons. He was a mere lad when chosen by God as a teacher; but so fixed were his principles by a correct education that he was fitted for this important position.

He bore his responsibilities with Christlike meekness. He was faithful, steadfast, and true, and Paul selected him to be his companion in labor and travel.

Lest Timothy should meet with slights because of his youthfulness, Paul wrote to him, ‘Let no man despise thy youth.’ He could safely do this, because Timothy was not self-sufficient, but continually sought guidance.

There are many youth who move from impulse rather than from judgment. But Timothy inquired at every step, ‘Is this the way of the Lord?’

He had no specially brilliant talents, but he consecrated all his abilities to the service of God, and this made his work valuable.

The Lord found in him a mind that He could mold and fashion for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

God will use the youth today as He used Timothy, if they will submit to His guidance.

It is your privilege to be God's missionaries. He calls upon you to work for your companions. Seek out those you know to be in danger, and in the love of Christ try to help them.

How are they to know the Saviour unless they see His virtues in His followers (YI Feb. 13, 1902)?

EXAMPLE

Albert Schweitzer said: "Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."

What qualities should you have to be a good example to others?

A quotation says: "If you want those you lead to look up to you as a good example, then have a servant's heart, take responsibility for your actions, speak up when something is wrong, and do not seek glory for yourself. The world often teaches leaders to look and act cool, to use coarse or foul language, to disrespect other authority or abuse their own, and to bend the rules for themselves. But in the end, the people who consistently live with kindness, integrity, and a deep love for God will be the most respected and honored." (*Divine Moments for Leaders*, p. 132).

OUTREACH



“Be the Sermon”. It is a great phrase. Taking that time out for intentional acts of kindness.

Over the weekend of this event, it was clear that it was not enough just to preach the sermon, but it was more important to **be** the sermon; a walking and living testimony of the grace of Jesus Christ for the world to see. It was Edgar A. Guest who penned the words, “I would rather see a sermon than hear one any day.”

Edgar Albert Guest was a British-born U.S. writer whose poems were widely read during the first half of the 20th century. And he wrote also the following:

SERMONS WE SEE ⁴

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day:
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel in confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue to fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.



This is a beautiful picture of surrender of our children to God in their young years, to be empowered to dedicate a whole life to His loving service for and to others.

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind,
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me,
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.

And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.
One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;
One deed of kindness notices is worth forty that are told.
Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,
For right living speaks a language which to everyone is clear.
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.

EPHESIANS ⁵

What we know about God and what we do for God have a way of getting broken apart in our lives. The moment the organic unity of belief and behavior is damaged in any way, we are incapable of living out the full humanity for which we were created. Paul's letter to the Ephesians joins together what has been torn apart in our sin-wrecked world... Once our attention is called to it, we notice fractures all over the place. There is hardly a bone in our bodies that has escaped injury, hardly a relationship in city or job, school or church, family or country, that isn't out of joint or limping in pain. There is much work to be done.

And so Paul goes to work. He ranges widely, from heaven to earth and back again, showing how Jesus, the Messiah, is eternally and tirelessly bringing everything and everyone together. He also shows us that in addition to having this work done in us and for us, we are participants in this most urgent work.

Pastor's child, are you a good sermon? Does your way of living, of talking, of dressing, of studying, of working and of worshipping and of treating all others a good example? What do people see in you when they meet you or hear you? Do they perceive that you are a child of God, or are you a wordling? May this be your motto also: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

¹ [Global Youth Day - Adventist Youth Ministries \(gcyouthministries.org\)](http://gcyouthministries.org)

² [News | Adventist News Network](#)

³ 7 BC 915

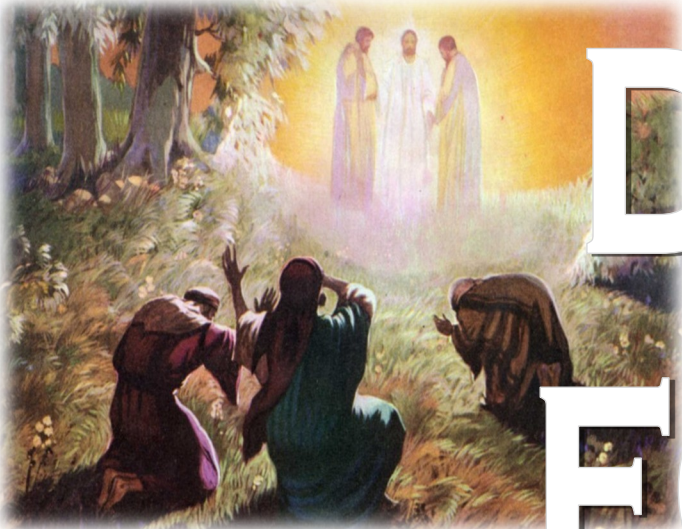
[As I'm walking I am telling - YouTube](https://youtu.be/RvTBSf5806k)
<https://youtu.be/RvTBSf5806k>

⁴ [edgar guest poems - Bing images](#)

⁵ Introduction to EPHESIANS in the Message Bible



“I WILL



DIE

FOR



YOU!!!



We read the scripture that Peter was from his native town Bethsaida. He was a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee. His father's name was Jona. However, his mother was not mentioned. It was his younger brother Andrew who brought him to the Messiah.

When you look at Peter, there's nothing special about his appearance. People even perceived Peter as unlearned and ignorant (Acts 4:13). Peter was married before he became an apostle.

Peter was popularly known as the disciple who denied Jesus (or Yahshua in Hebrew) more than once. Not only that, but Jesus has sternly corrected Peter more than any of the other disciples.

However, Peter's conversion after Christ's resurrection is among the most dramatic and powerful. On the day of Pentecost, Peter gave a moving and inspiring message. Along with the effort of the other Apostles and followers of Christ, the church exponentially grew day by day.

SOME LESSONS LEARNED FROM HIS LIFE

Lesson no. 1: When Jesus calls, we need to answer immediately

Peter and most of the other apostles were fishermen. They have spent a significant amount of their time making a living. Thus, when Jesus called them, it was during their working hours. We read: And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "**FOLLOW ME**, and I will make you fishers of men." *They immediately left their nets and followed Him...* **God has a purpose in your life.** ...The question now is, "Will you answer God's invitation?"

Lesson no. 2: God wants to develop a close relationship with us

What's the purpose of Jesus calling Peter? Is it to make him a slave? Is it to simply make him an instrument to fulfill a purpose? Obviously not. When Jesus said, "Follow Me," *He was inviting Peter to live closer to Him.* Jesus wanted Peter to get more acquainted with Him. He wanted to foster an intimate relationship and this would only be possible if Peter spends more time with Jesus.

In order to get closer to God and Jesus, **you need to take the time and effort to build that relationship.** It is not enough to just believe in God, but you must take the necessary steps to move closer to Him.

Lesson no. 3: God plays no favoritism

We see here (Mat.4:18) that Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee to find His disciples. *Jesus wasn't searching among the chief priests, elders, leaders, kings, and other prominent men.* He wasn't looking in Herod's court, palaces, and castles where He could have found the mighty and noble. Jesus called fishermen to be part of His inner circle. In the standards of men, Peter and the others are no one. But to Christ, *they were someone.* At that moment, Peter had no idea how he and his companions would eventually change the world! (1Cor.1:26-28)

Lesson no. 4: We need to be diligent in our work

Lesson no. 5: Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God

Lesson no. 6: The foundation of the Church is Jesus Christ

We need to realize that the Head of the church is Jesus Christ and not any human leader. Sometimes, we just lose focus on the real Leader of the church during trials and hardships. However, this must not be the case.

Lesson no. 7: We need to fully trust God's will in our lives

For us, Christians, we need to fully trust God's will in our lives. Yes, there are times when we just can't understand why we are going through different problems in life. But we can have the confidence that God's will is perfect, and if we want anything in this life, it should be His will.

Lesson no. 8: We must be willing to learn

True to his calling, Peter lived up to be a disciple, a learner, a pupil of Jesus. We read from the Bible the different occasions where Peter showed his eagerness to learn. As Christians, we must have a teachable and humble attitude. Learning must happen each day and we can best do this through Bible study, attending church services, and reading more about God's way of life.

Lesson no. 9: We must live by faith and not by sight

Peter is a man of courage. It is due to his courage that he always seemed to be the speaker of the disciples. However, sometimes, **the same courage puts him in trouble.** He wanted to come to Jesus, something that we also must desire. However, living the Christian life is not always smooth sailing or a life without trouble. It is expected that we will face a lot of troubles,

challenges, and problems along the way. At first, Peter was able to walk on water, an amazing feat that we might have also experienced spiritually when we first decided to follow Christ.

However, Peter's attention was diverted to the boisterous wind. In the same way, our focus might also be diverted from Christ to the storms of life. Problems are a normal part of life. But when we begin to be afraid, just like Peter, *we begin to sink*. What happened? Peter walked by sight, instead of walking by faith. We must remember that the things that we don't see are MORE **powerful** than the things that we see. In this life, we need to realize that to see is not to believe, but to believe is to see.

Walking by faith means that no matter what happens in this life, we must never lose our faith. Though we might lose our house, the respect and love of others, the recognition of other people, and even our life, we MUST not lose our faith.

Lesson 10: Our repentance should come with action

Peter is known to be the disciple who denied Jesus three times. When Jesus predicted His death, Peter said, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble" (Matthew 26:23). Yet, when the push

came to shove, Peter denied Jesus not just once or twice, but thrice! After Peter realized how he betrayed his Master, "He went out and wept bitterly" (Matthew 26:75).

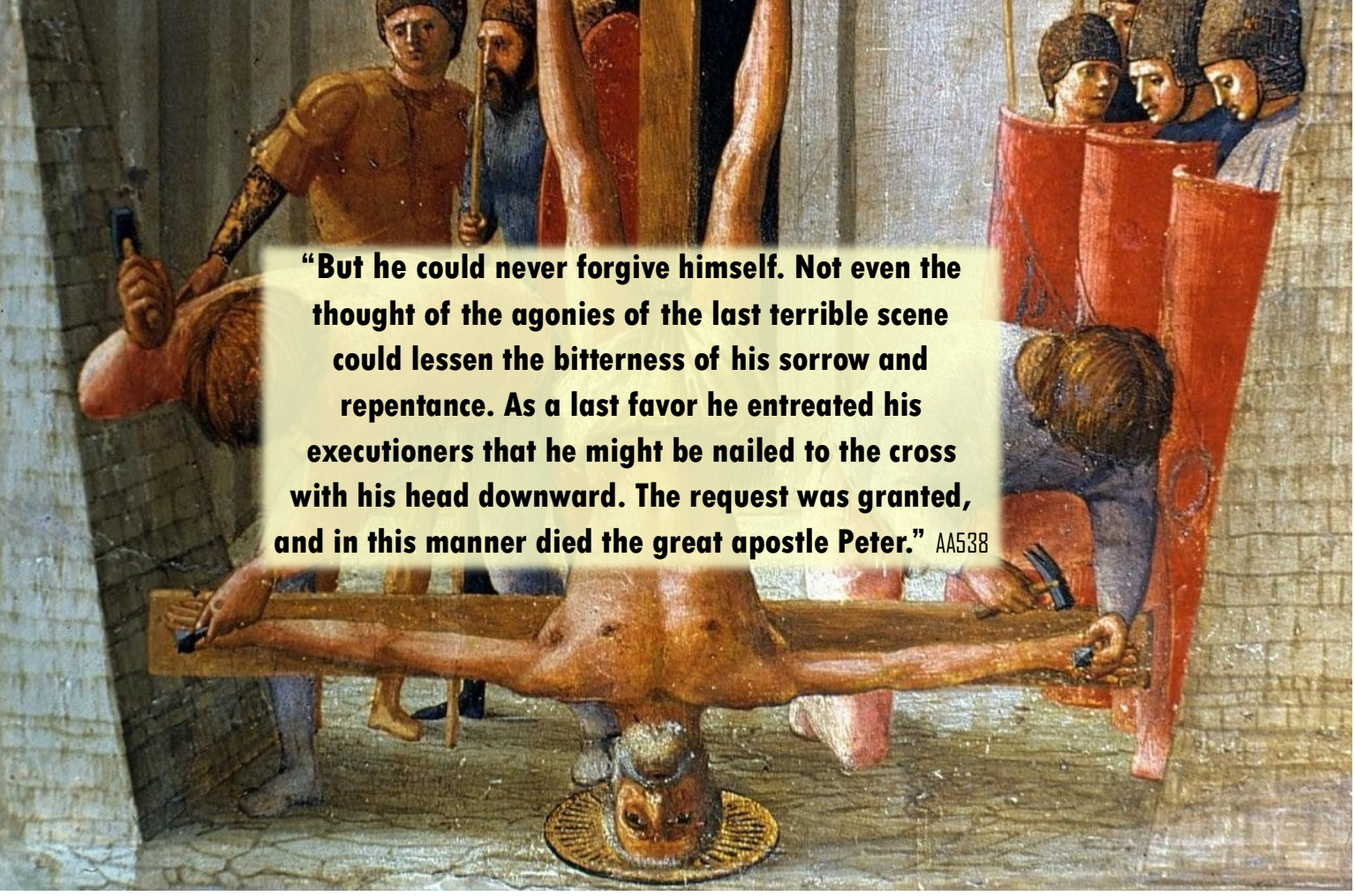
There's no doubt: Peter felt remorseful. He was sorrowful. He repented. We can all feel remorseful, regret our actions, and weep all we want. But if our feeling sorry does not change our way of thinking and affect our lives, **then that is useless.** (2 Cor.7:9-11).

In short, repentance is more than just being sorry, but it is the process of asking for forgiveness and making a commitment to turning away from your sin. And that's what Peter did. As we can see, Peter isn't perfect, but his life is a great source of lessons that we must apply in our daily lives.

He committed a lot of mistakes when he was with the Christ and certainly, he still made mistakes after the death of his Master. However, as we can see, in spite of these mistakes, God has used Peter in so many powerful ways.

If God can use Peter, He can also use us.

[10 Powerful Lessons We Learn from the Life of the Apostle Peter | Becoming Christians](#)



"But he could never forgive himself. Not even the thought of the agonies of the last terrible scene could lessen the bitterness of his sorrow and repentance. As a last favor he entreated his executioners that he might be nailed to the cross with his head downward. The request was granted, and in this manner died the great apostle Peter." AA538

**BUILDING
BLOCKS
OF
CHARACTER**



SO DON'T LOSE A MINUTE IN BUILDING on what you've been given: ¹

- Complementing your basic faith with good character
 - Spiritual understanding
 - Alert discipline
 - Passionate patience
 - Reverent wonder
 - Warm friendliness
 - And generous love
-
- Each dimension fitting into and developing the others.
 - With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet.
 - No day will pass without its reward as you MATURE in your experience of our Master Jesus.
 - Without these qualities you can't see what's right before you.
 - Oblivious that your old sinful life has been wiped off the books.
-
- SO FRIENDS, confirm God's invitation to you, his choice of you.
 - Don't put it off, do it now.
 - Do this, and you'll have your life on a firm footing.
 - The streets paved and the way wide open in to the eternal kingdom of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ.

FOUR LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THESE VERSES OF THE BOOKS OF PETER: ²

- 1. God will use us after our failures.** None of us are perfect. We all make mistakes, we all have our shortcomings. *"...and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."* ([John 6:37](#)).
- 2. God desires spiritual maturity.**
Just as a child grows slowly, but steadily, into adulthood, we should be inching toward maturity in our relationship with God.
- 3. Christ-followers will suffer.**
We must change our way of thinking. According to [1 Peter 4:12-19](#), we must view our trials as opportunities to demonstrate joy. We get to participate in Christ's sufferings. And because of this, we get to share in His blessings as well.

We'll have an eternity to abide in His presence. An eternity of no pain or heartache. We must commit to our "faithful Creator and continue to do good" ([1 Peter 4:19](#)), while looking to our glorious future.

4. Christ-followers must lead holy and godly lives.

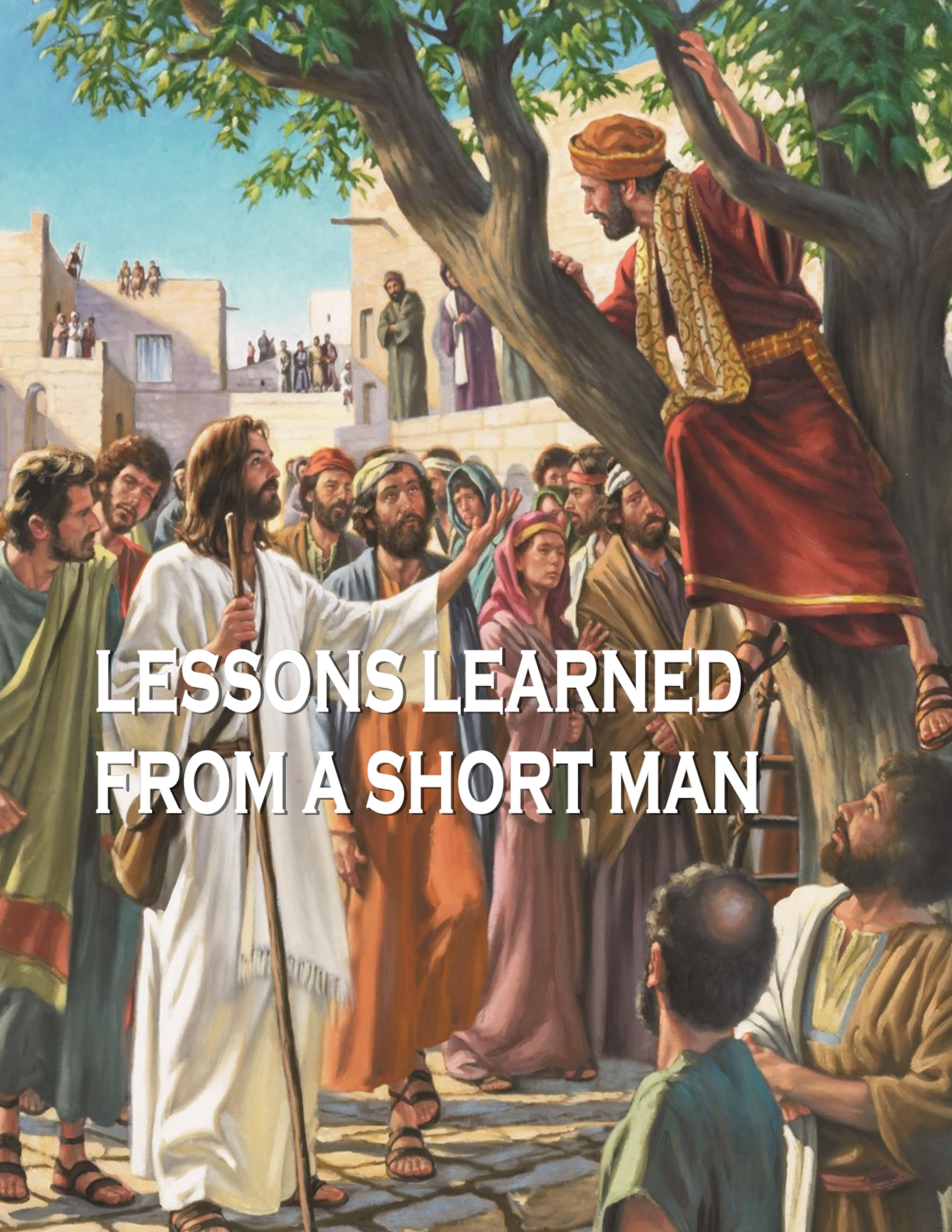
Peter asks, "what kind of people ought you to be?" He answers by saying we "ought to live holy and godly lives" ([2 Peter 3:11](#)). Many of you are saying, "Of course, we should!" But, really, are we? Does your life look different from before when you did not know Christ as your Savior?... If you are wondering if your life should look different, ask God to show you the areas He'd like to see altered. He is the ultimate Guide and will prepare you for "a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells" ([2 Peter 3:13](#)). One where we'll reside together with our Lord, Jesus Christ.



"As a flower turns to the sun, that the bright rays may touch it with tints of beauty, so will the soul turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that heaven's light may beautify the CHARACTER with the graces of the character of Christ." (DA 468)

¹ Texts from 2 Peter I-II (Bible version The Message)

² [1 Peter and 2 Peter - 4 Powerful Life Lessons from These Bible Books \(crosswalk.com\)](#)



**LESSONS LEARNED
FROM A SHORT MAN**

The story of Zacchaeus is a brief but important account of how we should approach and respond to Jesus Christ. Here are 11 lessons that we can learn from his story ([Luke 19:1-10](#)).

#1 No One is Beyond Saving

We are told that Zacchaeus was a rich tax collector ([Luke 19:2](#)). Understanding how this came to be is critical to understanding the gravity of this account. Tax collectors were hated by the Jews. They were agents of the Roman Empire, collecting on levies and taxes for Caesar. They had wide authority to prosecute those who did not pay and were also able to increase their fees beyond what was actually required, so long as they sent the appropriate amount back to Rome. As such a man, Zacchaeus had accumulated large amounts of illegitimate wealth. The fact that he was a Jew makes it a double betrayal: not only is he afflicting his countrymen, but he is doing so as someone who has professed loyalty to Roman rule through his actions. He was no better than a traitor and turncoat. But Jesus will soon make the point that even such a man as this can be saved.

#2 Do Whatever it Takes to Get to Jesus

Jewish men did not run because it seemed undignified, and they would never climb a tree because they would be exposed to those who passed beneath them. Such actions would be considered shameful and beneath a respectful member of the community. But when Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming, he ran ahead of the crowds and climbed a tree just to catch a glimpse of Him ([Luke 19:4](#)). He did what was necessary to get to God, regardless of what others thought.



#3 Listen for Jesus's Voice and Respond

Jesus addressed Zacchaeus directly and told him what He expected of him ([Luke 19:5](#)), and Zacchaeus "hurried and came down," overjoyed that Jesus had reached out to him ([Luke 19:6](#)) and did everything within his power to obey Him.

#4 Be Ready to Welcome Jesus Into Your Heart

Zacchaeus proved that he was ready to hear Jesus through his actions: he no doubt had to leave his taxing tables, his livelihood and a symbol of his ill-gotten gains, in order to seek Jesus out. He had broken every social norm to get close to Him, and when Jesus finally did speak to Him Zacchaeus responded immediately. His mind and heart were prepared beforehand and willing to respond when the Lord called. We should learn to adopt that mindset and attitude with Jesus ourselves.

#5 Be Prepared to Confront Your Prejudices

The response of the crowd around Jesus is also very telling. They looked down on Jesus because He had chosen to eat with someone they thought was a sinner ([Luke 19:7](#)). They looked down on Zacchaeus because they thought that he was beyond saving – he had made his choices and turned his back on his people, and so they refused to seek his good to try to reach out to him themselves. Jesus broke through both of these barriers frequently. He confronted people's preconceptions about "sinners" by saying that they were the very people He came to save and minister to. The next time you think someone is unlovable or is beyond saving, remember this story and the example of Jesus. No one is beyond the power of His hand to redeem.

#6 Acknowledge Jesus as Both Lord and Savior

Zacchaeus addresses Jesus as "Lord" ([Luke 19:8](#)) when he speaks to him. This is the critical first step in beginning a relationship with God: acknowledging Jesus as the Lord of your life. No other person or thing or priority should ever come close to the influence and lordship of Jesus Christ. Yes, it is true that He saves us, but the point of His salvation is that we can use our redeemed and restored lives yielding to His will over our own.

#7 Do Whatever it Takes to Change Your Life for the Better

Zacchaeus promises to take drastic measures to right the wrongs he has done, and to live his life in a better and more righteous way: he promises to give much of his wealth to the poor and to go above and beyond in repaying what he took illegally from others ([Luke 19:8](#)). Such actions would have depleted much, if not all, of Zacchaeus' wealth. It may well have left him with nothing when he was done, but he didn't care about that. All he cared about was following his Lord. His priorities were finally straightened out; money was no longer the driving force of his life. He could gladly give it up for the sake of following Jesus.

#8 Yield to What God Puts on Your Heart

We may not be called to the same level of extravagance in our giving as Zacchaeus committed to, but whenever God lays a path or an action on your heart, you should not compare it to someone else or try to justify a lesser course. That is for each of us to decide on our own; we can seek wise counsel and consider the implications of our actions, and we should always consider whether such feelings come from God or from our own thoughts. But the bottom line is, we should be obedient to whatever God tells us to do in order to follow Him. Zacchaeus was moved by Jesus' love to do the things he promised. For him, those were necessary steps to proving that he had fully submitted the rest of his life to God.



#9 Faith and Actions Are Different, but They Do Work Together

Zacchaeus would not have been justified simply by giving away his money. Nor would he have been justified by taking any other action. Those were outward signs of a changed heart. Scripture teaches elsewhere that the motivations of our heart are what is important, not just our actions. We may follow the Law to the letter, or we may check off every box that would signify to others that we are faithful disciples of Christ. *But if we do all of those things with selfish desires or motives, it will do us no good in the long run.* Our works do not save us; only faith in God does that. But one way we can be sure that our faith is real if it is followed up with – and carried out by – our actions. Our good works are a sign of faith, not a gateway to it.



#10 Be Willing to Accept Other Believers

After His meeting with Zacchaeus, Jesus proclaimed that he was a “son of Abraham” (Luke 19:9) and said that Zacchaeus’ faith had saved him. Jesus knew the desires of Zacchaeus’ heart, and knew that he really would change – and He knows the same of us too. If we meet someone who we previously thought could not be saved, and they show proof of true repentance and salvation, we should be quick to accept them on the evidence of their changed life.

#11 Remember Why Jesus Came

Jesus reiterated the purpose for His ministry: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10) We should remember that in our own personal ministry for God, and have that as our guiding goal for fulfilling the Great Commission.



DISCIPLINE IN A LONG-DISTANCE RACE

DO YOU SEE WHAT THIS MEANS— all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans (Heb. 11) cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running— and never quit. No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on *JESUS*, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how He did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed— that exhilarating finish in and with God— he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's *there*, in the place of honor, right alongside God.

When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through— all that bloodshed! So don't feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as *His* children?

**My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline,
But don't be crushed by it either.
It's the child he loves that he disciplines;
The child he embraces, he also corrects.**

God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's *training*, the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we can truly *live*?



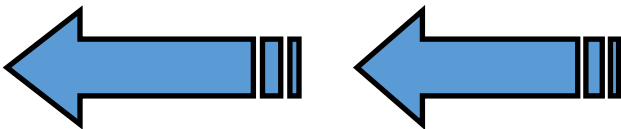
While we were children, our parents did what *seemed* best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best. At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves *mature* in their relationship with God.

So don't sit around on your hands! No more dragging your feet! Clear the path for long-distance runners so no one will trip and fall, so no one will step in a hole and sprain an ankle. Help each other out. And run for it!

Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you'll never get so much as a glimpse of God. Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time.



Watch out for Esau syndrome: trading away God's lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite. You well know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God's blessing—but by then it was too late, tears or no tears.



"I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself." ²

¹ Hebrews 12, version The Message

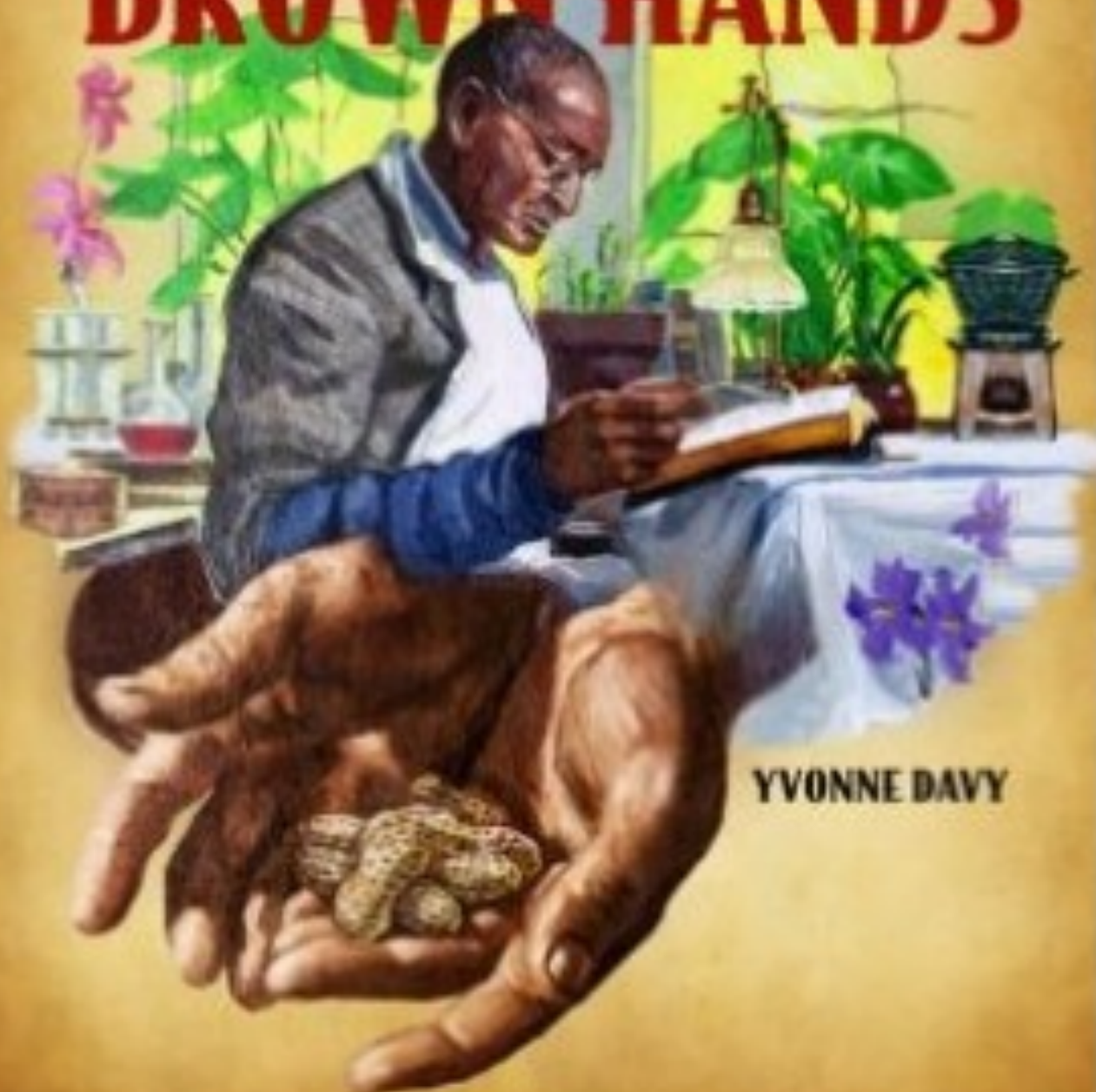
² 1 Corinthians 9:27



ADVENTIST HERITAGE LIBRARY



MR. CREATOR'S Borrowed BROWN HANDS



YVONNE DAVY

3. Barefoot Scientist

There were no scraps of paper lying around the Carver home, so George didn't even think of making pictures that way. Instead he found a smooth, flat stone and some colored berries, and with these he made his first picture. When he had finished, he stood back and surveyed his art.

"That's not as good as those pictures up at the big house," he admitted to himself, "but they do look like flowers. Someday I'm going to make pictures just as nice as Mrs. Baynham's. And they're going to hang on walls in fancy houses too," he promised himself.

If the boy's visit to the Baynham plantation gave him a vision, it gave Mrs. Baynham equal cause for rejoicing. Her roses rivaled Aunt Susan's for beauty.

"Oh, my dear, what gorgeous roses you have was the chorus whenever the neighbors stopped by.

"Ah, I can't take credit for them. It's all due to Mr. Carver's George. He's the real wizard with plants." Mrs. Baynham was quick to give George the credit.

And so George's fame grew, and whenever one of the ladies in the area had a problem with her garden, she would send for George to help her. And each day George added to his stock of knowledge of plants as he made discoveries in his plant hospital in the woods.

Uncle Moses stomped into the kitchen in a glum mood one morning. "My best apple tree seems to be dying," he told Aunt Susan.

"Oh, no, don't tell me that! What will we do for apple pies? And applesauce? If that tree dies—" Aunt Susan's voice trailed off.

"Well, I can't see that there's a thing wrong with it, except that it's dying. Come and see for yourself," he suggested.

Aunt Susan and Jim hurried out to the orchard with him, but George ran ahead. As they looked up at the tree that seemed to be withering visibly, George climbed nimbly up the trunk. He scrambled from branch to branch.

"You come down this minute; you're not a monkey," commanded Aunt Susan anxiously.

"I'm coming in a minute, Aunt S-Susan. Uncle Moses, Uncle Moses, fetch a s-saw!" the boy shouted excitedly in his high-pitched voice.

"Whatever do you want a saw for?" asked the man.

"C-Cause I know what's wrong with the t-tree. You m-must cut this branch off, and then the tree will be fine again. I've f-found a c-codlin' moth n-nest in this b-branch an' that's what's k-killin' the tree."

Uncle Moses sent Jim for the saw, and in no time the offending branch lay on the ground. As they inspected the infested bark Uncle Moses just

shook his head as he muttered over and over, "There's nothing George doesn't know."

George, however, didn't have any such exalted opinion of his knowledge. Indeed it seemed to him that the world was full of things he didn't know. How to find all the answers to his questions—that was the problem. Uncle Moses and Aunt Susan were constantly baffled.

"Why can't you be like Jim?" Uncle Moses wanted to know. "Jim never asks questions I can't answer. He hoes, rakes, tends the horses, and is satisfied; but you, you always want to know 'Why do you do this? How do pumpkins grow? Where do flies come from? You'll be the death of me with all your questions.'" And he shook his head in frustration.

Because nobody could give George the answers to his questions, he tried to find the answers for himself.

"What's that you have in your hand?" Aunt Susan asked George as he walked into the house one afternoon.

"Only a little m-mouse. I want to f-find out—"

"What!" Aunt Susan didn't let him finish the sentence.

"Out!" she commanded, and when she used that voice, George knew that he'd better not argue or try to explain. So the mouse went out. But on the way back, George found some delicate Queen Anne's lace, and on it crawled a fine, fat, caterpillar. Ah, here was something he would be able to study. He picked a bunch of the flowers and put them in a vase on the table.

"That's pretty," said Aunt Susan as she noticed the bouquet. "Thank you, George."

George smiled happily. However, Aunt Susan noticed that he showed unusual interest in the vase on the table. He seemed to be talking to himself as he watched it.

"Why are you so interested in that Queen Anne's lace?" she asked.

"It's so p-pretty. I l-like to l-look—" His voice sounded innocent enough.

"There's something not quite right about this; you're stuttering too much." She marched toward the table.

"It's n-nothing m-much—"

But Aunt Susan wasn't to be put off so easily. She peered at the flowers herself. At first she decided she had been mistaken; then as she turned away, she saw the "worm." "Out! And be quick about it!" she commanded.

"B-but—"

"No 'buts.' Take those flowers out— and no more flowers in the house!"

One day George brought some tall milkweed stalks. He wanted to watch the pods burst open. He put them on the table. "They're not flowers, just p-pods, and there isn't a c-caterpillar on them, Aunt Susan," George pleaded.

Aunt Susan weakened. "this once— but if they make a mess, you're in for trouble, young man."

"They won't" George promised.

And his intentions were very good. But the best of intentions sometimes don't turn out quite so well. George had helped Aunt Susan churn the cream into butter. It had been washed and was still lying in the large pan on the kitchen table— a big, golden island surrounded by a sea of clear, cold water. George should have taken the butter out to the milk room, but he had run outside for a few minutes. Aunt Susan was stirring the beautiful ruby-red apple jelly as it cooked on the stove.

An exclamation of horror from Aunt Susan brought George dashing in to her rescue, or so he thought, till he saw what had happened. He stood transfixed by the sight that met his eyes. The milkweed pods were popping, and the parachuting seeds floated on every air current from the open window.

Finally he found his voice. "Oh, it's b-beau-tiful!" he said in an awed whisper.

Unfortunately, Aunt Susan's eyes didn't see the downy beauty of those silken parachutes. Instead she saw the mess they made as they floated down unto her spotless floor, the furniture, and worse, much worse—

"Just look at my butter! And my jelly!" she cried. "Moses, Moses Carver, you come here and take this boy to the barn immediately," she commanded in her sternest no-nonsense voice.

Uncle Moses hurried in from the horses to see what dreadful crime George had committed. George walked out to meet him, and the two of them marched off to the barn. On the way Uncle Moses paused a moment to cut a switch— only a tiny swith, however, for George was only a tiny boy.

"Down with your trousers, lad. We must do what Aunt Susan says," he told the youngster.

Dutifully George pulled down his pants, all the while exclaiming, "Oh, but Uncle Moses, you oughta s-seen it, you oughta s-seen."

Zing, zing, zing went the switch, but it didn't stop George's flow of exclamations. As the man threw the switch aside, he agreed, "I gues I should have seen it, since the memory of it took all the sting out of your punishment. But I guess too that you'd better not do *that* again!"

George longed for a pocketknife, but there was no money for such needless luxuries. So he told the flowers in his garden, "I need a knife to make all kinds of things for Uncle Moses, Aunt Susan, and Jim. But Uncle M-Moses says it would be j-just a t-toy, so I th-think I'll ask Mr. Creator to send me a knife. Aunt S-Susan told us a l-lovely story about a man who pr-prayed and got what he wanted, so why c-can't I?" And so he told God all about his desire, and that night he had a thrilling dream. In a field he saw three stalks of corn with a half water-



melon nearby, and right next to the melon lay a black-handled lady's knife with two blades.

"I'm going to find me a knife today," he announced at breakfast.

"And where do you aim to find the knife?" asked skeptical Jim.

"Just you wait and see," George answered mysteriously.

As soon as he had helped with the dishes, he asked, "May I go and find my knife n-now? I won't be long."

"I guess you may," Aunt Susan consented.

George dashed off to the field of his dream, and sure enough there stood three cornstalks with a half-eaten watermelon on the ground next to them. He scratched in the grass. Suddenly his fingers closed on something hard. He pulled it up. It was the knife. "Mr. Creator, I knew you'd give me a knife if I asked You. Thank You for loving me such a lot," he said softly.

Although Uncle Moses was a good man as far as the standards of the world went— he didn't use bad language, he was strictly honest, and he had a vague belief in God— he didn't go to church. George, on the other hand, would have dearly loved going to the little cabin church in Locust Grove, one mile from their home. But since his "family" didn't go to the church, of course, he

stayed home too. But on weekdays it was different, for then the cabin became a schoolroom. George often ran off and sat on the steps of the building to listen as the children recite their lessons to the teacher.

"H'm, I think I could learn just as well as those boys and girls," he said to himself. "I must talk to Uncle Moses about it." And he ran in search of Moses Carver.

"Uncle M-Moses, when will I b-be old enough t-to go to s-s-school?" he asked breathlessly.

Uncle Moses didn't answer; indeed he seemed so intent on his work that he might not have even heard. Did he think that George was too young to go to school, just like he thought he was too young to go to Neosho? "You know, Uncle M-Moses, I been lis'nin' to them b-boys, and I kn-know I could do l-lessons just like they do!"

Uncle Moses evaded the question. "You don't really want to go to school! You're a right smart lad, so be satisfied to stay around here like Jim."

"N-no, Uncle M-Moses, I w-want to go to school, I'm sure I'm b-big enough 'cause there are boys s-smaller than me in the school."

Now Uncle Moses looked at George as he shook his head slowly. "You'll never be big enough ...

to go to that school because— because black boys aren't allowed to go to that school," he said sadly.

"B-but w-why not? Oh!" The despair in George's voice wrung the man's heart. He turned away abruptly from the tragedy written all over the young face.

George ran to the woods to face his disappointment by himself. What difference did it make that his skin was black? Aunt Susan didn't seem to think there was any difference. She said he could knit and crochet and embroider just as well as she could. He looked at his hands. They were brown, yes, but they could do all the things her white hands could do. Uncle Moses often asked his opinion about the plants and trees and took his advice, so uncle Moses didn't seem to think it made any difference— a black head could think just as well as a white one. And the roses in Aunt Susan's garden— God sent the sunshine and the rain on the red ones just as well as on the yellow ones. Why, why couldn't a boy go to school just because his skin was black? There were so many things he wanted to know. Would he never find the answers? He threw himself on the ground next to his little garden and sobbed until he was exhausted.



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