

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mommy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?'

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?'

'No,' replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms.'

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?'

One child blurted out, 'Aces!'

MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

'Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.'

'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his mother asked

'Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know.'

UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and

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bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. 'Well, Honey,' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.' 'How come He doesn't answer it?' she asked.

BEING THANKFUL

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, 'So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?' The little boy replied, 'Thank God he's in bed!'

UNTIMELY ANSWERED PRAYER

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, 'Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?' Tommy answered, soberly, 'I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!'

TIME TO PRAY

A pastor asked a little boy if he said his prayers every night. 'Yes, sir,' the boy replied. 'And, do you always say them in the morning, too?' the pastor asked. 'No sir,' the boy replied. 'I ain't scared in the daytime.'

ALL MEN / ALL GIRLS

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, 'And all girls.' This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, 'Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?' Her response, 'Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men!'

SAY A PRAYER

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. 'Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer.' said his mother. 'I don't need to,' the boy replied. 'Of course, you do,' his mother insisted. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.' 'That's at our house,' Johnny explained. 'But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!'



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I read about **Hudson Taylor** the founder of the China Inland Mission that he often used these three words.

**IMPOSSIBLE
DIFFICULT
DONE**

Mark 9:23, "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

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In John 14:6, Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes unto the Father but by me.*"

At times we deal with situations in our lives that aren't going the right way. Telltale signs such as confusion, pain, disgrace, anger at others or situations, will reveal that something isn't right. Often we believe there is little we can do. Human tendency is to walk away when we see something wrong.

Many ignore what's not right. Sometimes we can't walk away because we may simply be too close to the situation. In those cases, we sometimes just ignore the problem and hope it will go away. But it rarely does.

Another option is that we retreat within ourselves. We hole up. We close up and distance ourselves emotionally from the problems we face. We get proactive in staying out of situations that involve pain or turmoil. We begin to believe that it is always someone else's fault, never our own. No, I am doing the right things, it **MUST** be them.

We find ourselves retreating farther and farther into our shell. These options don't solve the problems.

We choose to do nothing because we actually believe we can't make a difference anyway, and we aren't responsible for the outcome.

THE WAY

Let's look at **John 14:6** again. Jesus said, *I am THE WAY, the truth, and the life.*



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To get the heart of God in any situation we must come according to *the way* that He established. The way might be a path we need to follow. Decisions, of which way to go, are often required.

Remember, as we face various options our decisions must be based on Jesus because He is "the way." If we take a wrong path, we'll not end up in the right place. But thankfully God, by way of the spirit within will give us course corrections to adjust our steps along the way.

The way to go in handling situations may be a procedure that we should follow. Some actions may need to be taken to resolve a negative situation. Procedures might involve communication. Words may need to be shared and finances may need to be given. Our priority of time may need to be attuned to do what is most important.

James 4:1-8,

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

"James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

THE TRUTH



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I am THE WAY, the truth, and the life.

The next term used is *the truth*. How do we know if the path we are travelling is the right way to go?

One signpost on God's way is truth.

I live in Whiteway, Bath; THE WAY to Bristol Airport is on the A4 into Bristol then to the Airport. When I leave home and go down to the A4, Lower Bristol Rd. and turn left onto the A4 I know I am on the *RIGHT WAY* to get to the Airport.

That's a bit like John 14:6. When you are on the way, heading toward *the life* of God, you go straight through truth. Some people, sadly, try to have the good life of God, but don't want to go through truth.

We must address a couple of different things when dealing with truth. The first of these words is **FACTS**, ignoring the facts doesn't help you obtain the truth.

In most cases, especially in spiritual matters, the facts are not the truth of the situation because the facts are always subject to change.

If the doctors say that you have a terminal disease, that may be a fact, but it isn't the truth. God's Word is truth. The fact of a disease is subject to change.

In **John 8:31-32** Jesus said,

*If you continue in my word, **then** you are my disciples indeed, and you **shall** know the truth, and the truth **shall** make you free*



1st "shall"

ginosko {ghin-occe'-ko}

know 196, perceive 9, understand

1) to learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of perceive, feel

1a) to become known

2) to know, understand, perceive, have knowledge of

2a) to understand

2b) to know

3) Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman

2nd "shall"

eleutheroo {el-yoo-ther-o'-o}

make free 6, deliver 1; 7

1) to make free

2) set at liberty: from the dominion of sin

Sometimes we have to ask ourselves whether the facts we see are the truth, or whether we need to keep searching for the truth in the Word of God?

The other word we need to tackle is **FEELINGS**.

FACTS and **FEELINGS** need to be dealt with when we are searching for *the truth*.

Many people, when trying to find the truth, will put total trust in how they feel about their situation. Truth - not our feelings - is what makes us free.

THE LIFE

The life of God is our destination.

The development we want to have is where the solutions have come and the problems have been solved.

In John 6:63 Jesus says, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

"My words, they are spirit and they are life unto you."

The real guidebook for our life is the Bible, the Word of God.

Jesus is the way, and the truth and the life. Go God's way and you'll have the Life of God in your life.



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Statistics in this country show that one in every four people have some form of mental problem. So, if your three closest friends are OK then you must be the one.

It's ALWAYS possible to make a POSITIVE choice!

Deuteronomy 30.19 *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.*

Every morning we wake up; we immediately face 2 choices, we either can be happy or sad, we can be bright or we can be sour, it's our choice every day. No matter what situation we face today or tomorrow it is always possible to make a POSITIVE CHOICE about our future.

If we're still alive, then it is within our power to make whatever choice God would want us to make.

No matter how many wrong choices we may have made in the past, we have the freedom to make the right choice now.

Outwardly, it may take time to reverse the damage that our past choices have brought, but inwardly, we can at this very moment begin being the person that you know God wants you to be. The positive choice is still possible!

Sometimes we may feel that we've done so badly for so long that there is no hope for us. But this sinking sense of hopelessness comes from below, from the enemy, the devil, not from heaven and Our Father God. It's only our enemy who wants us to give up. Our Father wants us to live. He wants us to take the simple, honest step that it's always possible to take: the one immediately before us. If we choose to take that step, there is nothing the devil can do to stop us, although he'd surely like to do so.

But it does us little good to have the power of choice if we don't use it. We shouldn't waste the marvellous dignity and honour that God conferred on us

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when He gave us our freedom of will. His grace toward us should not be as Paul says in

1 Corinthians 15:10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

One encouraging thing to keep in mind is that each positive choice creates strength. If we choose in the present moment to do what is right, we'll find the next moment much easier to deal with.

Every good decision leads to another. We'll be helped by a favourable momentum that makes our forward progress less difficult.

Whatever our choices may be, God is not neutral about them. Having gone to great lengths to save us,

He wants us to choose life. If we fail to choose it, He'll have to let justice be carried out, of course. But that will break His heart.

Ezekiel 18:31-32 *Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?*

32 *For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"*

Today, you can turn. This very instant, you can say yes to life, yes to a positive outcome. Yes to a positive choice.

At any moment in life we have the option to choose an attitude of gratitude, a posture of grace, a commitment to joy.

You can make that **POSITIVE** choice today and live in His blessings?

Have a wonderful **POSITIVE** week!



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It's ok to smile a while:

The day finally arrived. Forrest Gump dies and goes to Heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates, met by St. Peter himself. However, the gates are closed, and Forrest approaches the gatekeeper.

St. Peter said, 'Well, Forrest, it is certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you, though, that the place is filling up fast, and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The test is short, but you have to pass it before you can get into Heaven.'

Forrest responds, 'It sure is good to be here, St. Peter, sir. But nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. I sure hope that the test ain 't too hard. Life was a big enough test as it was.'

St. Peter continued, 'Yes, I know, Forrest, but the test is only three questions.

1. What two days of the week begin with the letter T?
2. How many seconds are there in a year?
3. What is God's first name?

Forrest leaves to think the questions over. He returns the next day and sees St. Peter, who waves him up, and says, 'Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers'

Forrest replied, 'Well, the first one -- which two days in the week begins with the letter "T"? Shucks, that one is easy. That would be Today and Tomorrow.'

The Saint's eyes opened wide and he exclaimed, 'Forrest, that is not what I was thinking, but you do have a point, and I guess I did not specify, so I will give you credit for that answer. How about the next one?' asked St. Peter? 'How many seconds in a year?'

Now that one is harder,' replied Forrest, but I think and think about that, and I guess the only answer can be twelve.'

Astounded, St. Peter said, 'Twelve? Twelve? Forrest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?'

Forrest replied, 'Shucks, there's got to be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd...'

'Hold it,' interrupts St. Peter. 'I see where you are going with this, and I see your point, though that was not quite what I had in mind....but I will have to give you credit for that one, too. Let us go on with the third and final question. Can you tell me God's first name?'

'Sure,' Forrest replied, 'it's Andy.'

'Andy?' exclaimed an exasperated and frustrated St Peter.



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'Ok, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as the first name of God?'

'Shucks, that was the easiest one of all,' Forrest replied. 'I learnt it from the song, 'ANDY WALKS WITH ME, ANDY TALKS WITH ME, ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN.'

St. Peter opened the Pearly Gates, and said: 'Run Forrest, run.'