



**Think Abouts 10**

**Condensed and annotated  
by  
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### Introduction

Welcome to this collection, one of several in a series. . .

Mostly about life, and living, but some on Nursing, Religion, etc., no jokes here though. These again are mostly from the email circuit, passed around until their origins are lost in the paperless trail!

I hope that they may cause you to pause and consider them as they did for me.

If I feel strongly enough about any essay my comments will follow it!

In thoughts we live,



The Power

“I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather.

I possess tremendous power to make a life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration.

I can humiliate or honor, hurt or heal.

In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a person humanized or dehumanized.

If we treat people as they are, we make them worse. If we treat people as they ought to be, we help them become what they are capable of becoming.”  
--Goethe

We all have the power to change/affect our surroundings and people.  
All it takes is a word sometimes to set our mood, which changes our attitudes thus our viewpoints of reality.

The Secret Of Life

By Gretchen Peters  
Sung by Faith Hill

Couple of guys sittin' around drinkin'  
Down at the Starlight Bar  
One of them says, you know  
I've been thinking  
Other one says, that won't get you too far  
He says, this is your life and welcome to it  
It's just workin' and drinkin' and dreams  
Ad on TV says "Just do it"  
Hell if I know what that means

The secret of life is a good cup of coffee  
The secret of life is to keep your eye  
on the ball  
The secret of life is a beautiful woman  
And Marilyn stares down from the  
barroom wall

You and me we're just a couple of zeros  
Just a couple of down-and-outs  
But movie stars and football heroes  
What have they got to be unhappy about?





So they turn to the bartender,  
 “Sam, what do you think?  
 What’s the key that unlocks that door?”  
 Sam don’t say nothin’,  
 just wipes the bar  
 And he pours them a couple more

‘Cause the secret of life is Sam’s martinis  
 The secret of life is in Marilyn’s eyes  
 The secret of life is in  
 Monday night football  
 Rolling Stones records and  
 mom’s apple pie

Sam looks up from his Sunday paper  
 Says, boys, you’re on the wrong track  
 The secret of life is there ain’t no secret  
 And you don’t get your money back (hey)

The secret of life is getting’ up early  
 The secret of life is staying up late  
 The secret of life is try not to hurry  
 But don’t wait...don’t wait  
 The secret of life is a good cup of coffee

The secret of life is keep your  
 eye on the ball  
 The secret of life is  
 to find a good woman  
 The secret of life is nothin’ at all  
 (oh it’s nothin’ at all)

Couple of guys sittin’ around drinkin’  
 Down at the Starlight Bar  
 One of ‘em says,  
 you know I’ve been thinking  
 Other one says, that won’t get you too far  
 That won’t get you too far

**I love this song.**

There is a ‘*secret*’ to life, but it is different for each one of us. The Secret is two-fold: whatever is important to each of us and makes us happy when we obtain it!

And it changes daily with each situation also. One day succeeding at something, the next sitting in the shade eating an ice cream cone on a hot summer day.

It’ not what we want but what we need that fills us with joy.

Figure out what you need to be happy and you’ll get what you want also.



## THE THINGS LITTLE KIDS DO

Too bad we all don't eat a little more Ice cream.

Saying Grace...

Last week I took my children to a restaurant.

My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good. God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all!

Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice-cream! Why, I never!" Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?" As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" My son asked. "Cross my heart," the man replied. Then in a theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kid's ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already."

## The Twelve Days of Christmas

When most people hear "The Twelve Days of Christmas," they think of the song. This song had its origin as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith. From 1558 to 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not able to practice their faith openly so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs.

This song is one example of how they did it.

The song goes, "On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me ..." The "true love" represents God and the "me" who receives these presents is the Christian.

The Partridge in a pear tree" was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.

The "two turtle doves" were the Old and New Testaments - another gift from God.



The “three French hens” were faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide. (1 Corinthians 13)

The “four calling birds” were the four Gospels, which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The “five golden rings” were the first five books of the Bible, also called the “Book of Moses.”

The “six geese a-laying” were the six days of creation.

The “seven swans a-swimming” were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:9-11, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4:10-11)

The “eight maids a-milking” were the eight beatitudes.

The “nine ladies dancing” were nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)

The “ten lords a-leaping” were the Ten Commandments.

The “eleven pipers piping” were the eleven faithful disciples.

The “twelve drummers drumming” were the twelve points of the Apostles Creed.

So the next time you hear “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” consider how this otherwise non-religious sounding song had its origins in the Christian faith.

### The US Rail Standard

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet 8.5 inches.

That’s an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that’s the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that’s the gauge they used.

Why did ‘they’ use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that’s the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe (and England) were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts? Roman war chariots first made the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels and wagons. Since the chariots were made for, or by Imperial



Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

Thus, we have the answer to the original question. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Specifications and bureaucracies live forever. So, the next time you are handed a specification and wonder which horse's rear came up with it, you may be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war-horses.

There's an interesting extension to the story about railroad gauges and horses' behinds. When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. Thiokol makes the SRBs at their factory at Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

### Shorts

So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined by the width of a (two) Horse's ass!

My grandpa told me to remember two things in life. Look out for Number One, and remember your number. —Orville Cogswell

There is only one pretty child in the world and every mother has it. —Chinese Proverb.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. —Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Down Memory Lane

They say you can't go back but surely the following brings back some fond memories...

I want to go back to the time when.....

Decisions were made by going "eeny-meeny-miney-mo."

Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, "do over!"

"Race issue" meant arguing about who ran the fastest.



Money issues were handled by whoever was the banker in “Monopoly.”

Catching the fireflies could happily occupy an entire evening.

It wasn’t odd to have two or three “best friends.”

Being old referred to anyone over 20.

The net on a tennis court was the perfect height to play volleyball and rules didn’t matter.

The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was cooties.

It was magic when dad would “remove” his thumb.

It was unbelievable that dodgeball wasn’t an Olympic event.

Having a weapon in school meant being caught with a slingshot.

Nobody was prettier than Mom.

Scrapes and bruises were kissed and made better.

It was a big deal to finally be tall enough to ride the “big people” rides at the amusement park.

Getting a foot of snow was a dream come true.

Abilities were discovered because of a “double-dog-dare.”

Saturday morning cartoons weren’t 30-minute ads for action figures.

No shopping trip was complete unless a new toy was brought home.

“Oly-oly-oxen-free” made perfect sense.

Spinning around, getting dizzy and falling down was cause for giggles.

The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team.

War was a card game.

Water balloons were the ultimate weapon.

Baseball cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle.

Taking drugs meant orange-flavored chewable aspirin.



Ice cream was considered a basic food group.

Older siblings were the worst tormentors, but also the fiercest protectors

If you can remember most or all of these, than you have LIVED!!!

You're IT! Pass this on to anyone who may need a break from their "Grown Up" Life!!!!!!!

Based on this collection and other quips about the 'old days' I am going to write a short book entitled "Remember When!" Keep an eye out for it on my site.

### Things to think about

..like there isn't enough to think about?

1. The best way to get even is to forget...
2. Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death...
3. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts...
4. Some folks wear their halos much too tight...
5. Some marriages are made in heaven, but they ALL have to be maintained on earth...
6. Unless you can create the WHOLE universe in 6 days, then perhaps giving "advice" to God, isn't such a good idea!
7. Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, and faith looks up...
8. Standing in the middle of the road is dangerous. You will get knocked down by the traffic from both ways.
9. Words are windows to the heart.
10. A skeptic is a person who... when he sees the handwriting on the wall claims it's a forgery.
11. It isn't difficult to make a mountain out of a molehill, just add a little dirt.
12. A successful marriage isn't finding the right person - It's BEING the right person.
13. The mighty oak tree was once a little nut that held its ground.



14. Too many people offer God prayers, with claw marks all over them.

15. The tongue must be heavy indeed, because so few people can hold it.

16. To forgive is to set the prisoner free, and then discover the prisoner was you.

17. You have to wonder about humans, they think God is dead and Elvis is alive!

18. Its all right to sit on your pity pot every now and again. Just be sure to flush when you are done.

19. You'll notice that a turtle only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.

20. If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can be sure the water bill is higher.

And last but not least...

21. God gave the angels wings, and He gave humans CHOCOLATE.  
(YEAH!!!)

**YOU ARE RICHER TODAY IF YOU HAVE LAUGHED, GIVEN OR FORGIVEN!!!!!!!!!!**

Life is not measured by the breaths that you take, but by the moments that take your breath away. Spread a little kindness. In life we make choices; in love we take chances. Chase your dreams until you catch them; we do not exist to be unhappy.

### Think

Take a few minutes and read these.

Think about them one at a time BEFORE going on to the next one.....

Falling in love.

Laughing so hard your face hurts.

A hot shower.

No lines at the Super Wal-Mart.

A special glance.

Getting mail.

Taking a drive on a pretty road.

Hearing your favorite song on the radio.

Lying in bed listening to the rain outside.

Hot towels out of the dryer.

Finding the sweater you want is on sale for half price.



- Chocolate milkshake. (or vanilla!)**
- A long distance phone call.**
- A bubble bath.**
- Giggling.**
- A good conversation.**
- The beach.**
- Finding a \$20 bill in your coat from last winter.**
- Laughing at yourself.**
- Midnight phone calls that last for hours.**
- Running through sprinklers.**
- Laughing for absolutely no reason at all.**
- Having someone tell you that you're beautiful.**
- Laughing at an inside joke.**
- Friends.**
- Accidentally overhearing someone say something nice about you.**
- Waking up and realizing you still have a few hours left to sleep.**
- Making new friends or spending time with old ones.**
- Having someone play with your hair.**
- Sweet dreams.**
- Hot chocolate.**
- Road trips with friends.**
- Swinging on swings.**
- Wrapping presents under the Christmas tree while eating cookies and drinking eggnog.**
- Making eye contact with a cute stranger.**
- Winning a really competitive game.**
- Making chocolate chip cookies.**
- Having your friends send you homemade cookies.**
- Spending time with close friends.**
- Seeing smiles and hearing laughter from your friends.**
  
- Holding hands with someone you care about.**
- Running into an old friend and realizing that some things (good or bad) never change.**
- Watching the expression on someone's face as they open a much desired present from you.**
- Watching the sunrise.**
- Getting out of bed every morning and thanking God for another beautiful day.**
  
- Just pass it on because we all need to be reminded of how good life is/has and will be**



### This is interesting.

The citrus soda 7-UP was created in 1929; “7” was selected because the original containers were 7 ounces. “UP” indicated the direction of the bubbles.

Mosquito repellents don’t repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito’s sensors so they don’t know you’re there.

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least 6 feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as substitute for blood plasma.

American car horns beep in the tone of ‘F’.

No piece of paper can be folded more than 7 times.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

1 in every 4 Americans has appeared on television.

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty years of age or older.

The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley’s gum.

The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.

A Boeing 747s wingspan is longer than the Wright brother’s first flight.

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating 1 olive from each salad served in first-class.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

The first CD pressed in the US was Bruce Springsteen’s “Born in the USA.”

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.

The 57 on the Heinz ketchup bottle represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.

The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.

The first owner of the Marlboro company died of lung cancer.

Barbie’s full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

Betsy Ross is the only real person to ever have been the head on a Pez dispenser.

Michael Jordan makes more money from Nike annually than all of the Nike factory workers in Malaysia combined.

Adolf Hitler’s mother seriously considered having an abortion but was talked out of it by her doctor.

All US Presidents have worn glasses. Some just didn’t like being seen wearing them in public.

Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

The sound of E.T. walking was made by someone squishing her hands in jelly.

Richard Milhouse Nixon was the first US president whose name contains all the letters from the word “criminal.” The second? William Jefferson Clinton

Dalai Lama

This is what The Dalai Lama has to say on the millennium, all it takes is a few seconds to read and think.

1. Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
2. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
3. Follow the three Rs:
  - Respect for self
  - Respect for others and
  - Responsibility for all your actions
4. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
5. Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.
6. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
7. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
8. Spend some time alone every day.
9. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
10. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
11. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
12. A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.
13. In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
14. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
15. Be gentle with the earth.
16. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
17. Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.
18. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
19. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

**I know this is a repeat, but a good thing can't be said too many times!**

Rooney - I've Learned

These were written by Andy Ronney a man who has the gift of saying so much with so few words. Enjoy.....

I've learned....

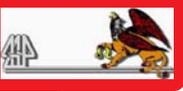
That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned....

That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned....

That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.





I've learned....

That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned....

That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned....

That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned....

That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned....

That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned....

That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned....

That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned....

That life is like a roll of toilet paper. ! The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned....

That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned....

That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned....

That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned...

That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned...! .

That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?

I've learned....



**That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.**

**I've learned....**

**That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.**

**I've learned....**

**That love, not time, heals all wounds.**

**I've learned....**

**That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.**

**I've learned....**

**That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.**

**I've learned....**

**That there's nothing sweeter than sleeping with your babies and feeling their breath on your cheeks.**

**I've learned....**

**That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.**

**I've learned....**

**That life is tough, but I'm tougher.**

**I've learned....**

**That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.**

**I've learned....**

**That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.**

**I've learned....**

**That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.**

**I've learned....**

**That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.**

**I've learned....**

**That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.**

**I've learned....**

**That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.**

**I've learned....**

**That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little**



**fist, that you're hooked for life.**

**I've learned....**

**That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.**

**I've learned ...**

**That it is best to give advice in only two circumstances; when it is requested and when it is a life threatening situation.**

**I've learned....**

**That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.**

### Bag of Nails

**There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His Father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence**

**Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.**

**Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.**

**The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one.**

**You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.**

### Friends

**Friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share words of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us.**

**YOU ARE MY FRIEND AND I, AM HONORED.**

**Please forgive me if I have ever left a hole in your fence.**

**Hugs and Smiles always,**



### Thought you would like this.

“A Joyful heart is good medicine”  
 It heals the body when it’s down and lifts the spirit from within.  
 It will bring a smile to others.  
 As you journey on your way, pass the cup of kindness,  
 love someone today.  
 It takes only one small candle to show you the way.  
 It takes just a kind word to help someone today.  
 Reach out to others, show that you care.  
 For like a burning candle ~ It may not always be there.

### Quotes

“I am suspicious of guilt in myself and other people: it is usually a way of not thinking, or of announcing one’s own fine sensibilities the better to be rid of them fast.”—Lillian Hellman

“The ability to accept responsibility is the measure of the man.”—Roy L. Smith

Don’t hesitate:

“Procrastination is opportunity’s assassin.”—Victor Kiam

“If you want to do something, do it!”—Plautus

“Why always, ‘not yet?’ Do flowers in spring say, ‘not yet?’”—Norman Douglas

### Thoughts about guns

(some may be offended. Oh well)

a.. An armed man is a citizen. An unarmed man is a subject.

b.. A gun in the hand is better than a cop on the phone.

c.. Smith & Wesson: The original point and click interface.

d.. Gun control is not about guns; it’s about control.

e.. If guns are outlawed, can we use swords?

f.. If guns cause crime, then pencils cause misspelled words.

g.. Free men do not ask permission to bear arms.



- h.. If you don't know your rights you don't have any.
- i.. Those who trade liberty for security have neither.
- j.. The United States Constitution (c) 1791. All Rights Reserved.
- k.. What part of "shall not be infringed" do you not understand?
- l.. The Second Amendment is in place in case they ignore the others.
- m.. 64,999,987 firearms owners killed no one yesterday.
- n.. Guns only have two enemies: Rust and Politicians.
- o.. Know guns, know peace and safety. No guns, no peace nor safety.
- p.. You don't shoot to kill; you shoot to stay alive.
- q.. 911 - government sponsored Dial a Prayer.
- r.. Assault is a behavior, not a device.
- s.. Criminals love gun control - it makes their jobs safer.
- t.. If Guns cause Crime, then Matches cause Arson.
- u.. Only a government that is afraid of it's citizens try to control them.
- v.. You only have the rights you are willing to fight for.
- w.. Enforce the "gun control laws" in place, don't make more.
- x.. When you remove the people's right to bear arms, you create slaves.
- y.. The American Revolution would never have happened with Gun Control.
- z. "...a government by the people, for the people..."

OK, so at the moment I don't own any guns! Do my dual Samauri swords count?

I sold my single shot and dad's pump action shotguns when I left Tahoe. I was VERY disappointed when I learned that dad had sold his Army Colt 45 before I had a chance to buy it, would have been a nice collectors piece. I have both pistol and rifle marksman medals from the Navy. Have I ever shot anyone? No, nothing but targets. Do I believe guns cause crime? No, people do, whether they have a weapon or not.



## Three Wish Fish

A big-time negotiator was out fishing one day when he caught a strange looking fish. He reeled the fish in, unhooked it, and threw it on the ground next to him. The fish started writhing in agony and, to the negotiator's surprise, said,

"Please throw me back into the lake and I'll grant you three wishes."

"Any three wishes, huh?" The negotiator mused as visions of expensive fast cars and beautiful women paraded through his head.

"Fish," he finally exclaimed, "Give me five wishes and I'll throw you back."

"Sorry," the fish answered while struggling for breath, "only three wishes."

The negotiator's pride was at stake and after giving the matter some thought he announced, "What do you take me for? A sucker? I'll settle for four wishes."

"Only three," the fish murmured weakly.

Fuming, the man debated the pros and cons of accepting the three wishes or continuing to bargain for that one extra wish. Finally, the negotiator decided it wasn't worth looking a gift fish in the mouth and said "All right fish, you win, three wishes."

Unfortunately, the fish was dead.

This would almost fit in the joke books, but it goes along with being happy with what you got. Holding out for more could lose you what you already have.

What three wishes would you wish for?

Myself:

1. never having to sleep or get tired.
  - a. we waste a third of our lives sleeping, what could we get accomplished if we didn't have to stop.
2. never having to eat.
  - a. I lean on the "having" here. Being photosynthetic or something similar. This would also be a time saver, between shopping, food preparation, eating it and then clean up we waste several hours per day.
3. stay youngish/healthy.
  - a. I don't want to live forever, but two or three centuries would be interesting. Ending up about where I was at 45 (I know I'm older than that now, but it does no good to live a long time if your too old or unhealthy to enjoy it)!

Note no request for wealth! To me TIME is our most important commodity, we only have so much of it and it's NOT replenishable.



## To Remember Me

The day will come when my body will lie upon a white sheet neatly tucked under four corners of a mattress located in a hospital busily occupied with the living and the dying.

At a certain moment a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my deathbed. Let it be called the Bed of Life, and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

Give my sight to the man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman. Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain. Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play. Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week. Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that someday, a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her window.

Burn what is left of me and scatter the ashes to the winds to help the flowers grow.

If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses and all prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my sins to the devil. Give my soul to God.

If, by chance, you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you. If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

By Robert N. Test

I could not begin to say it more eloquently.

If there is a noble purpose this shell can accomplish after I leave it, I hope me executor carries through with it. The body is not me, nor mine once I've left it, if I can offer life or hope of a dream with its use I will be pleased.

I do want to be cremated after donations, Shantree's ashes sit upon my desk to be added to mine as a gesture, then I want to be spread in the mountains by a lake (pick a beautiful vista).

On the spiritual side, I don't believe are bodies are anything more than an instrument for our souls to interact with this reality. We don't die, we just move on to the next plane, whatever that is.

“People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. When you figure out which it is, you know exactly what to do.”- Michelle Ventor

“I don't pretend to understand the Universe. It's a great deal bigger than I am.” Writer and historian, Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

Warm fuzzy

1. At least 5 people in this world love you so much they would die for you.
2. At least 15 people in this world love you, in some way.
3. The only reason anyone would ever hate you is because they want to be just like you.
4. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
5. Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.
6. You mean the world to someone.
7. Without you, someone may not be living.
8. You are special and unique, in your own way.
9. Someone that you don't know even exists, loves you.
10. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good comes from it.
11. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look, you most likely turned your back on the world.
12. When you think you have no chance at getting what you want, you probably won't get it, but if you believe in yourself, you probably sooner or later will get it.
13. Always remember compliments you received, forget about the rude remarks.
14. Always tell someone how you feel about them, you will feel much better when they know.
15. If you have a great friend, take the time to let them know that they're great.

"The moment you know how, you begin to die a little. The artist never entirely knows. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark."  
- Agnes de Mille

Quotes

"We can do whatever we wish to do provided our wish is strong enough... What do you most want to do? That's what I have to keep asking myself, in the face of difficulties."  
—Katherine Mansfield





**“Never let yesterday use up today.”—Richard H. Nelson**

**“What a lovely surprise to discover how un-lonely being alone can be.”—Ellen Burstyn**

**Think twice before you hire a lawyer and sue:**

**“Our court dockets are so crowded today it would be better to refer to it as the overdue process of law.”—Bill Vaughn**

**“Lawyers spend a great deal of their time shoveling smoke.”—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.**

**“Ignorance of the law does not prevent the losing lawyer from collecting his bill.”—Puck magazine**

**“How far would Moses have gone if he had taken a poll in Egypt?”—Harry Truman**

**“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year.”—Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**“If you want to be listened to, you should put in time listening.”—Marge Piercy**

**Don’t despair, the sun will come up:**

**“The weariest night, the longest day, sooner or later must perforce come to an end.”**

**—Baroness Orczy**

**“Hold your head high, stick your chest out. You can make it. It gets dark sometimes, but morning comes . . . .”—Rev. Jesse Jackson**

**“The morning is wiser than the evening.”—Russian proverb**

**“Unless I accept my faults, I will most certainly doubt my virtues.”—Hugh Prather**

**“If you can’t write your idea on the back of my calling card, you don’t have a clear idea.”**

**—David Belasco**

**“I love the challenge of starting at zero every day and seeing how much I can accomplish.”—Martha Stewart**

**Don’t confuse being alone with loneliness:**



**“Solitude is the human condition in which I keep myself company. Loneliness comes about when I am alone without being able to split up into the two-in-one, without being able to keep myself company.”—Hannah Arendt**

**“I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude.”—Henry David Thoreau**

**“This great misfortune — to be incapable of solitude.”—Jean De La Bruyere**

**“Let others praise ancient times; I am glad I was born in these.”—Ovid**

**“I don’t know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.”  
—Bill Cosby**

**“A mistake is evidence that someone tried to do something.”—Anon.**

**Determine for yourself which one is one too many:**

**“No animal ever invented anything as bad as drunkenness — or so good as drink.”  
—G. K. Chesterton**

**“People who drink to drown their sorrow should be told that sorrow knows how to swim.”—Ann Landers**

**“The less I behave like Whistler’s mother the night before, the more I look like her the morning after.”—Tallulah Bankhead**

**“Life is not always what one wants it to be, but to make the best of it, as it is, is the only way of being happy.”—Jennie Jerome Churchill**

**“One enemy is too many; a hundred friends too few.”—Anon.**

**“There is a difference between imitating a good man and counterfeiting him.”—Benjamin Franklin**

**Maintain a healthy skepticism when dealing with modern, or any other medicine:**

**“Who shall decide when doctors disagree?”—Alexander Pope**

**“Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.”—Erma Bombeck**

**“Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.”—Mark Twain**



**“I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship.”—Louisa May Alcott**

**“Act – act in the living present!”—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

**“Learn as if you were going to live forever. Live as if you were going to die tomorrow.”**

**—Anon.**

**The roadblocks in life are only there for you to find a way around them:**

**“I’ve been failing for like, ten or eleven years. When it turns, it’ll turn. Right now I’m just tryin’ to squeeze through a very tight financial period, get the movie out, and put my things in order.”—Francis Ford Coppola**

**“Effort only fully releases its reward after a person refuses to quit.”—Napoleon Hill**

**“The great thing, and the hard thing, is to stick to things when you have outlived the first interest, and not yet got the second, which comes with a sort of mastery.”—Janet Erskine Stuart**

**“Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible.”—Anon.**

**“We must use time as a tool, not as a crutch.”—John F. Kennedy**

**“He who begins many things finishes but a few.”—Italian proverb**

**Carve your own path through life:**

**“We only do well the things we like doing.”—Colette**

**“Each bird must sing with his own throat.”—Henrik Ibsen**

**“Don’t take anyone else’s definition of success as your own.”—Jacqueline Brisken**

**“For the happiest life, days should be rigorously planned, nights left open to chance.”**

**—Mignon McLaughlin**

**“To behave with dignity is nothing less than to allow others freely to be themselves.”**

**—Sol Chaneles**

**“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.”—Henry Ford**



To be persuasive, keep it to a few well-chosen words:

“To say the right thing at the right time, keep still most of the time.”—John W. Roper

“The prime purpose of eloquence is to keep other people from speaking.”—Louis Vermeil

“The older I grow, the more I listen to people who don’t say much.”—Germain G. Glidden

“On the human chessboard, all moves are possible.”—Miriam Schiff

“It’s never too late — in fiction or in life — to revise.”—Nancy Thayer

“You have no idea how big the other fellow’s troubles are.”—B. C. Forbes

If asked to say “a few words,” keep it to that:

“Spartans, stoics, heroes, saints and gods use a short and powerful speech.”—Ralph Waldo Emerson

“I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes.”—Edward Everett to Abraham Lincoln

“A speech is like a love affair. Any fool can start it, but to end it requires considerable skill.”—Lord Mancroft

### We are not alone

We don’t practice in isolation; we depend on each other to keep our department functional and presentable. If you take the last one, restock. If you fill it up, empty it. If you notice it’s missing, try to find it. If it’s on the floor, pick it up. If it didn’t get done before, do it now. If you say “it’s a bad day”, it is (so stop saying that). If you say “it was tough and we worked together and got it done” our world is a much better place to be.

**Practice Humility:** Humility and inner peace go hand in hand. The less compelled you are to prove yourself to others, the easier it is to feel peaceful inside. Proving yourself is a dangerous trap. It takes an enormous amount of energy to continually point out your accomplishments, bragging, or trying to convince others of your worth as a human being. Bragging actually dilutes the positive feelings you receive from an accomplishment or something you are proud of. The more you try to prove yourself, the more others will avoid you, talk behind your back about your insecure need to brag, and perhaps even resent you. Ironically, the less you seem to care about approval, the more



approval you seem to get. People are drawn to those with a quiet inner confidence, people who don't need to make themselves look good, be right all the time, tell a better story, or steal the glory. Most people love a person who doesn't need to brag, a person who shares from the heart, not from the ego.

The way to develop genuine humility is to practice. It's nice because you will get immediate feedback in the way of calm, easy feelings. The next time you have an opportunity to brag or gloat, don't.

Instead, take a moment to notice someone else.

### We'll Go Forward From This Moment

I read this the first time shortly after it was published on Wednesday. I have since received it from several different sources. I think now may be the right time to share it with you, as we each prepare to participate in this National Day of Remembrance. Each in our own way. One Nation Indivisible Under God!!

Headline: We'll go forward from this moment

It's my job to have something to say. They pay me to provide words that help make sense of that Which troubles the American soul. But in this moment of airless shock when hot tears sting disbelieving eyes, the only thing I can find to say, the only words that seem to fit, must be addressed to the unknown author of this suffering.

You monster. You beast. You unspeakable bastard.

What lesson did you hope to teach us by your coward's attack on our World Trade Center, our Pentagon, us? What was it you hoped we would learn? Whatever it was, please know that you failed. Did you want us to respect your cause? You just damned your cause.

Did you want to make us fear? You just steeled our resolve.

Did you want to tear us apart? You just brought us together.

Let me tell you about my people. We are a vast and quarrelsome family, a family rent by racial, social, political and class division, but a family nonetheless. We're frivolous, yes, capable of expending tremendous emotional energy on pop cultural minutiae — a singer's revealing dress, a ball team's misfortune, a cartoon mouse. We're wealthy, too, spoiled by the ready availability of trinkets and material goods, and maybe because of that, we walk through life with a certain sense of blithe entitlement. We are fundamentally decent, though — peace-loving and compassionate. We struggle to know the right thing and to do it. And we are, the overwhelming majority of us, people of faith, believers in a just and loving God.

Some people — you, perhaps — think that any or all of this makes us weak.



**You're mistaken. We are not weak. Indeed, we are strong in ways that cannot be measured by arsenals.**

### **IN PAIN?**

**Yes, we're in pain now. We are in mourning and we are in shock. We're still grappling with the unreality of the awful thing you did, still working to make ourselves understand that this isn't a special effect from some Hollywood blockbuster, isn't the plot development from a Tom Clancy novel. Both in terms of the awful scope of their ambition and the probable final death toll, your attacks are likely to go down as the worst acts of terrorism in the history of the United States and, probably, the history of the world. You've bloodied us as we have never been bloodied before.**

**But there's a gulf of difference between making us bloody and making us fall. This is the lesson Japan was taught to its bitter sorrow the last time anyone hit us this hard, the last time anyone brought us such abrupt and monumental pain. When roused, we are righteous in our outrage, terrible in our force. When provoked by this level of barbarism, we will bear any suffering, pay any cost, go to any length, in the pursuit of justice. I tell you this without fear of contradiction. I know my people, as you, I think, do not. What I know reassures me. It also causes me to tremble with dread of the future.**

**In the days to come, there will be recrimination and accusation, fingers pointing to determine whose failure allowed this to happen and what can be done to prevent it from happening again. There will be heightened security, misguided talk of revoking basic freedoms. We'll go forward from this moment sobered, chastened, sad. But determined, too. Unimaginably determined.**

### **THE STEEL IN US**

**You see, the steel in us is not always readily apparent. That aspect of our character is seldom understood by people who don't know us well. On this day, the family's bickering is put on hold.**

**As Americans we will weep, as Americans we will mourn, and as Americans, we will rise in defense of all that we cherish.**

**So I ask again: What was it you hoped to teach us? It occurs to me that maybe you just wanted us to know the depths of your hatred. If that's the case, consider the message received. And take this message in exchange: You don't know my people. You don't know what we're capable of. You don't know what you just started. But you're about to learn.**

Welfare

I cross ocean,  
poor and broke,  
Take bus,  
see employment folk.

Nice man treat me  
good in there,  
Say I need to  
see welfare.

Welfare say,  
“You come no more,  
We send cash  
right to your door.”

Welfare checks,  
they make you wealthy,  
Medicaid it keep  
you healthy!

By and by,  
I got plenty money,  
Thanks to you,  
American dummy.

Write to friends  
in motherland,  
Tell them ‘come as  
fast as you can.’

They come in turbans  
and Ford trucks,  
I buy big house  
with welfare bucks.

They come here,  
we live together,  
More welfare checks,  
it gets better!

Fourteen families,  
they moving in,  
But neighbor’s patience  
wearing thin.

Finally, white guy





moves away,  
Now I buy his house,  
and then I say,

“Find more aliens  
for house to rent.”  
And in the yard  
I put a tent.

Send for family  
they just trash,  
But they, too,  
draw the welfare cash!

Everything is  
very good,  
And soon we  
own the neighborhood.

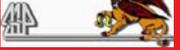
We have hobby —  
it’s called breeding,  
Welfare pay  
for baby feeding.

Kids need dentist?  
Wife need pills?  
We get free!  
We got no bills!

American crazy!  
He pay all year,  
To keep welfare  
running here.

We think America  
darn good place!  
Too darn good for  
the white man race.

If they no like us,  
they can scam,  
Got lots of room in  
Pakistan.



## What is love?

**"Love is that first feeling you feel before all the bad stuff gets in the way." - Charlie - age 5**

**"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." - Rebecca - age 8**

**"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." - Billy - age 4**

**"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." - Karl - age 5**

**"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." - Chrissy - age 6**

**"Love is when someone hurts you. And you get so mad but you don't yell at them because you know it would hurt their feelings." - Samantha - age 6**

**"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." - Terri - age 4**

**"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." - Danny - age 7**

**"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss." - Emily - age 8**

**"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." - Bobby - age 5**

**"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6**

**"Love is hugging. Love is kissing. Love is saying no" - Patty - age 8**

**"When you tell someone something bad about yourself and you're scared they won't love you anymore. But then you get surprised because not only do they still love you, they love you even more." Matthew - age 7**

**"There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them." - Jenny - age 8**

**"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday." Noelle - age 7**



**"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." - Tommy age 6**

**"During my piano recital, I was on a stage and scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my Daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore." - Cindy - age 8**

**"My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night." - Clare - Age 5**

**"Love is when mommy gives daddy the best piece of chicken." - Elaine - age 5**

**"Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford." - Chris - age 8**

**"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." - Mary Ann - age 4**

**I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." - Lauren - age - 4**

**"I let my big sister pick on me because my Mom says she only picks on me because she loves me. So I pick on my baby sister because I love her." - Bethany - age 4**

**"Love cards like Valentine's cards say stuff on them that we'd like to say ourselves, but we wouldn't be caught dead saying." - Mike - age 8**

**"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you." - Karen - age 7**

**"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross." - Mark - age 6**

**"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." - Jessica - age 8**

**"God could have said magic words to make the nails fall off the cross, but He didn't. That's love." - Max - age 5**

#### When I was a kid

Some of you won't understand this....

Looking back, it's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have. As children we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special



treat.

Our baby cribs were painted with lead based paint. We often chewed on the crib, ingesting the paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes we had no helmets.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then rode down the steepest hill we could find, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve the problem. We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us by cell phone all day.

We played dodge ball and sometimes the ball would really hurt. We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank sugared sodas, but we weren't overweight; we were always outside playing.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.

Some students weren't as smart as others so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade.

That generation produced some of the greatest risk-takers and problem solvers. We had the freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all!!!

### When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

By: Unknown

When tomorrow starts without me,  
 And I'm not there to see;  
 If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
 All filled with tears for me;  
 I wish so much you wouldn't cry  
 The way you did today,  
 While thinking of the many things,  
 We didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me,  
 As much as I love you,  
 And each time that you think of me,  
 I know you'll miss me too;  
 But when tomorrow starts without me,  
 Please try to understand,  
 That an angel came and called my name,  
 And took me by the hand,  
 And said my place was ready,



In heaven far above,  
And that I'd have to leave behind  
All those I dearly love.

But as I turned to walk away,  
A tear fell from my eye,  
For all my life, I'd always thought,  
I didn't want to die.  
I had so much to live for,  
So much yet to do,  
It seemed almost impossible,  
That I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays,  
The good ones and the bad,  
I thought of all the love we shared,  
And all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday,  
Just even for awhile,  
I'd say goodbye and kiss you  
And maybe see you smile.  
But then I fully realized,  
That this could never be,  
For emptiness and memories,  
Would take the place of me.

And when I thought of worldly things,  
I might miss come tomorrow,  
I thought of you, and when I did,  
My heart was filled with sorrow.

But when I walked through heaven's gates,  
I felt so much at home.  
When God looked down and smiled at me,  
From His great golden throne,  
He said "This is eternity,  
And all I've promised you."  
Today for life on earth is past,  
But here it starts anew.  
I promise no tomorrow,  
But today will always last,  
And since each day's the same day  
There's no longing for the past.

But you have been so faithful,  
So trusting and so true.  
Thought there were times you did some things,



You knew you shouldn't do.  
But you have been forgiven  
And now at last you're free.  
So won't you take my hand  
And share my life with me?

So when tomorrow starts without me,  
Don't think we're far apart,  
For every time you think of me,  
I'm right here, in your heart.

### WHERE WAS GOD?

"I know you're mad at Me right now. That's alright. People have been mad at me before and will be again. Being mad is part of being human. My Son got mad, too. It's alright to be mad sometimes at injustice, for example, or the lack of charity."

"You probably think I am unjust and uncharitable when an airplane goes down like that. All those people lost. The children gone. It doesn't seem right; it can't be loving. You ask, 'Where was God?' Why did He allow that to happen?"

"I allow it to happen because I allow you freedom. I could have left you on a string and made you dance all day without getting tired. I could have moved your mouth for you and made you sing all night without growing hoarse. I could have pulled a wire that would have let you soar skyward and never fall."

"I could have, but I didn't because I love you so much. I want you to be free to decide when to dance and sing. Free to determine when you will come to Me in faith and hope. Because you are free, some of you choose not to dance or sing. Some of you select hatred over love, revenge over forgiveness, bombs over a helping hand. As you choose, I watch. I do not disappear. I listen to both the songs and the bombs. AND I REMEMBER."

"Where was God?" you wonder...I was there. I whispered in the ear of a little girl, 'Don't be afraid, I am with you.' I held the hand of a business woman as tightly as she clutched mine. I cradled a pilot against my shoulder as if he were a baby again."

"Amid the paralyzing fear, I was there, as I was there with my Son in the garden. Amid the unbearable pain, I was there, as I was with Him as He was whipped. Amid the terrible realization that life was ending too soon, I was there, with Him as He hung on the cross and asked, like you, "My God, why have you forsaken Me?"

"I had not forsaken Him. I did not forsake them. I was there as they fell, and as they rose to eternal joy. I listened to their anger, answered their questions and showed them why they had been created. Not to end that way, but to live with Me forever." "In an instant, they came into existence. As you did. In an instant, they left this world. As you will.

But beyond that last instant, I kept my promise...A little girl dances, a business woman sings, and a pilot keeps his wings forever."



### Who is a “cracked pot”?

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master’s house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master’s house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. “I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you.”

“Why?” asked the bearer. “What are you ashamed of?”

“I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master’s house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don’t get full value from your efforts,” the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, “As we return to the master’s house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path.”

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful world flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, “Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot’s side? That’s because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it.

I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you’ve watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master’s table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house.”

**The Moral of this Story:** Each of us has our own unique flaws. We’re all cracked pots.

But it’s the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You’ve just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. There is a lot of good out there.

There is a lot of good in you and in me...even though we are “Cracked Pots!”

### Who Packs Your Parachute

Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was a jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile.



Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, “You’re Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk, You were shot down!”

“How in the world did you know that?” asked Plumb.

“I packed your parachute,” the man replied.

Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, “I guess it worked!”

Plumb assured him, “It sure did, If your chute hadn’t worked, I wouldn’t be here today.” Plumb couldn’t sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, “I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said “Good morning, How are you?” or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shroud lines and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn’t know.

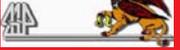
Now, Plumb asks his audience, “Who’s packing your parachute?”

Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute.

He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason.

As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachute.



### Whose hands

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.  
 A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million.  
 It depends on whose hands it's in...

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.  
 A baseball in Mark McGuire's hands is worth \$19 million.  
 It depends on whose hands it's in...

A golf club is almost useless in my hands.  
 A golf club in Tiger Wood's hands is a 4 Major Golf Championship.  
 It depends on whose hands it's in...

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.  
 A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.  
 It depends on whose hands it's in...

A sling shot in my hands is a toy.  
 A slingshot in David's hands is a mighty weapon.  
 It depends on whose hands it's in...

Two fish and five loaves in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.  
 Two fish and five loaves in Jesus' hands will feed thousands.  
 It depends on whose hands they're in...

Nails in my hands might produce a bird house.  
 Nails in Christ Jesus' hands will produce salvation for the entire world.  
 It depends on whose hands they're in ...

As you see now it depends on whose hands it's in...

So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams,  
 your families and your relationships in God's Hands because...

"It depends on whose hands they're in."

### Why Go to Church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:



**“I’ve been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu of a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today !”**

**Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!**

**Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!  
When you are DOWN to nothing.....God is UP to something!**

### **WHY JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA CLAUS??**

**Santa lives at the North Pole ...  
JESUS is everywhere.**

**Santa rides in a sleigh ...  
JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.**

**Santa comes but once a year ...  
JESUS is an ever present help.**

**Santa fills your stockings with goodies ...  
JESUS supplies all your needs.**

**Santa comes down your chimney uninvited ...  
JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.**

**You have to wait in line to see Santa ...  
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.**

**Santa lets you sit on his lap ...  
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.**

**Santa doesn’t know your name, all he can say is  
“Hi little boy or girl, what’s your name?” ...**

**JESUS knew our name before we were born.  
Not only does He know our name,  
He knows our address too.  
He knows our history and future and  
He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.**



**Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly ...  
JESUS has a heart full of love**

**All Santa can offer is HO HO HO ...  
JESUS offers health, help and hope.**

**Santa says "You better not cry" ...  
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."**

**Santa's little helpers make toys ...  
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs  
broken homes and builds mansions.**

**Santa may make you chuckle but ...  
JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.**

**While Santa puts gifts under your tree ...  
JESUS became our gift and died on a tree.... The cross.**

**We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, Jesus is still  
the reason for the season.**

**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only  
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not  
perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16**

### Words Of Wisdom - 1994 Inaugural Speech

**Nelson Mandela**

**Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.**

**We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabu-  
lous?**

**Actually, who are you not to be?**

**You are the child of God.**

**Your playing small doesn't serve the world.**

**There's nothing enlightening about shrinking so that other people won't  
feel insecure around you.**

**We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.**

**It's not just some of us, it's in everyone.**

**And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permis-  
sion to do the same.**

**As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates  
others.**

Words to read

Love starts with a smile, grows with a kiss, and ends with a tear.

Don't cry over anyone who won't cry over you.

If love isn't a game, why are there so many players?

Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget.

You can only go as far as you push.

Actions speak louder than words.

The hardest thing to do is watch the one you love, love somebody else.

Don't let the past hold you back, you're missing the good stuff.

Life's short. If you don't look around once in a while you might miss it.

A best friend is like a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have.

Some people make the world special just by being in it.

Best friends are the siblings God forgot to give us.

When it hurts to look back, and you're scared to look ahead, you can look beside you and your best friend will be there.

True friendship never ends.

Friends are forever.

Good friends are like stars....

You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

Don't frown. You never know who is falling in love with your smile.

What do you do when the only person who can make you stop crying is the person who made you cry?

Nobody is perfect until you fall in love with them.

Everything is okay in the end. If it's not okay, then it's not the end.

Most people walk in and out of you life, But only friends leave footprints in your heart.



Send this on to everyone special in your life, even the people who really make you mad sometimes.

Remember, every minute spent angry is sixty seconds of happiness wasted!

### Xmas Letter

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas—oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it—overspending...the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma—the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them.

We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat.

Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them."

Mike loved kids—all kids—and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me.



His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition—one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more.

Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the envelope. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us.

May we all remember the reason for the season, and the true Christmas spirit this year and always. God bless—pass this along to your friends and loved ones.

*Merry Christmas!*

The end of another volume, but also the end of my save emails, so I'll be turning to other 'works' for awhile!

Good luck on your journey through life,  
live a little,  
love a little,  
live long and be happy.