

February  
2022

Billings  
Walk  
To  
Emmaus

W2E Times

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Help Someone  
Become A  
4th-Dayer

## Joy

Author Leo Buscaglia tells an inspiring story about his mother and their “misery dinner”. Leo’s father came home one night from work, and he told the family that it was likely his company would have to file for bankruptcy because one of his partners had stolen a large amount of money and disappeared.

So, Leo’s mother went out and sold most of her jewelry for money to buy food for a huge feast. Many of her friends, and even family, chided her for this apparently reckless act. But she told them, “The time for joy is now, when we need it most.”

Joy seems to elude so many today. And when we try to discern why that is, the reason inevitably comes back to our circumstances. So, we fall into the trap of associating our joy with our happy circumstances, and reason that if things aren’t going well, then we can’t have joy.

But joy goes much deeper than happiness. It’s that innate sense that in everything that really matters—namely your salvation in Christ—you’ve already won. The war is over and there’s no more need to struggle to find fulfillment. Rest in that truth today, knowing that in Christ the joy of victory is yours forever.

# Bible

## Trivia

1. Who was anointed by the Holy Ghost?

Hint: Acts 10:38

2. Who was anointed a stone before dedicating it to God?

Hint: Genesis 28:18

3. Who told the early Christians that God had “given the earnest of the spirit in our hearts”?

Hint: 2 Corinthians 1:22

4. What man and his sons were anointed by Moses with the blood of a ram?

Hint: Leviticus 8:23-24

5. According to James, who should anoint a sick believer with oil?

Hint: James 5:14

6. What king of Persia was regarded to be God’s anointed one?

Hint: Isaiah 45:1

7. What priest anointed Solomon king?

Hint: 1 Kings 1:39

# B-17 Bomber

The Reverend Ben Patterson once said, “Hope delivers us from the despair that nothing we do matters, and enables us to tackle even the most menial job with vigor.” He goes on to share an illustration from World War II.

*A B-17 bomber flying over Germany during the latter days of the war was hit several times by flak and shells, even taking direct hits on its fuel tank. Miraculously, the bomber did not explode. When it finally landed, several of the crew investigated the unexploded shells lodged in the aircraft’s fuselage. Dismantling the shells they were amazed to discover that they were empty. That is, except for a note written in Czech, which read, “This is all we can do for you now.” Those men and who knows how many others owed their lives to a member of the Czech underground, quietly working day after day at an assembly line—hoping his efforts would make a difference.*

It’s easy to get discouraged when you feel like your best years are behind you. But the truth is that as a believer, your best opportunities are always now.

## Elijah’s Test

The Sunday School teacher was explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal to her class. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar. And then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times. “Now,” said the teacher, “can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?”

A little girl raised her hand with great enthusiasm and said, “To make the gravy!”

## Greet One Another

British minister J.H. Jowett told the story of a convict from Darlington, England. He had just been released after three years in jail when he happened to pass the mayor on the street. Expecting nothing more than cold ostracism, he did not know how to respond when the mayor tipped his hat, and said, “Hello! I’m glad to see you! How are you?”

Years later the two accidentally met in another city. The mayor didn’t remember the man, but the man had never forgotten the mayor. He said, “I want to thank you. When I came out of prison, you spoke a kind word to me, and it changed my life.”

1 Peter 5:14 says, “Greet one another with a kiss of love.” Simply greeting one another is not that hard, and what is small to you may be huge to someone else.

# Spiritual Thoughts

Emotions don't determine truth; God's word does.

The Bible is not a book of suggestions.

Your life doesn't get better by chance. It gets better by change.

God didn't give us the Bible to make us smarter sinners. God gave us the Bible to increase our level of obedience.

Faith makes things possible—it does not make them easy.

God calls us to show others Christ...not fix their behavior.

The chains of habit are scarcely ever heavy enough to be felt, till they are too strong to be broken.

He paid a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.

## Tomb Was Empty

A little boy named Philip with Down Syndrome attended a third-grade Sunday school class with several eight-year-old boys and girls. Typical of that age, the children did not readily accept Philip with his differences.

One Sunday, the teacher brought egg-shaped pantyhose containers for the students and told the children to go outside, find some symbol for new life, and put it in the egg-like container. Back in the classroom, they would share their new life symbols, opening the containers one by one. After running about the church property in wild confusion, the students returned to the classroom and placed the containers on the table.

Surrounded by the children, the teacher began to open them one by one. When one was opened, revealing nothing inside, the children exclaimed, "That's not fair! Somebody didn't do their assignment."

Philip spoke up, "That's mine."

"Philip, you don't ever do things right!" a student retorted. "There's nothing there!"

"I did so do it," Philip insisted. "It's empty, just like Jesus' tomb was empty!"

Silence followed. From then on, Philip became an accepted member of the class. He sadly died not long afterward from an infection most normal children would have shrugged off. At the funeral, this class of eight-year-olds marched up to the altar, not with flowers, but with their Sunday school teacher, each to lay on it an empty pantyhose egg.

Whatever challenges you face today, the resurrection of Jesus Christ can give your life hope, meaning, and purpose. So rest in the goodness of God and the new life you've been given through Jesus' resurrection!



## First Slingshot

A little boy visiting his grandparents was given his first slingshot. He practiced in the woods, but he could never hit his target. As he came back to Grandma's backyard, he saw her pet duck. On an impulse he took aim and let it fly. The stone hit, and the duck fell dead.

So he panicked and hid the dead duck in the woodpile, only to look up and see his sister watching. After lunch that day, Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes." But Sally said, "Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen today. Didn't you, Johnny?" And she whispered to him, "Remember the duck." So Johnny did the dishes.

Later Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing. Grandma said, "I'm sorry, but I need Sally to help make supper." Sally smiled and said, "That's all taken care of. Johnny wants to do it." Again she whispered, "Remember the duck." Johnny stayed while Sally went fishing.

Finally, after several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's, he couldn't stand it. He confessed to Grandma that he'd killed the duck. "I know, Johnny," she said, giving him a hug. "I was standing at the window and saw the whole thing. Because I love you, I forgave you. I just wondered how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."

How many Christians today have received forgiveness in Christ, but miss out on living in the freedom they have? Don't live under the impression that you still have to earn your salvation. Instead, live in the freedom that Christ has bought you!



# Forgiveness

What is forgiveness? First, forgiveness is not a feeling. Forgiveness is a promise. When God forgives us, He does not simply become emotional over His repentance. He goes on record that He has forgiven by making (and keeping) a promise to that effect: “Your sins and iniquities will I remember against you no more” (Jeremiah 31:34).



## Grandma's Hair

A little girl was sitting and watching her mother do dishes one day, and she suddenly noticed her mom had several strands of white hair. She took a closer look, and the mother noticed the girl had a perplexed look on her face.

“What is it, sweetie?” the mom asked.

“Mom,” the girl responded, “Why do you have white hairs coming out of your head?”

The mom laughed and answered, “Well, every time you do something wrong or disobey, one of my hairs turns white.”

The little girl thought for a moment and quipped back, “So how come ALL of Grandma's hairs are white?”

Many people think God has an ongoing tally of their wrongs. And over time those wrongs pile up as they disappoint Him time and time again. But that's the wonderful thing about grace. Grace means no wrong is ever counted against us. We don't give God white hairs!

So, the next time you make a mistake, remember that because you're in Christ, your sins are covered and will never be held against you!



## Stay Attached

Jesus said, “A branch cannot bear fruit if it's severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me” (John 15:4). The dominant duty of the branch is to cling to the vine. The dominant duty of the disciple is the same.

We Christians tend to miss this. We banter about pledges to “make a difference for Christ.” Yet our goal is not to bear fruit. Our goal is to stay attached. When a father leads his four-year-old son down a crowded street, he takes him by the hand and gives him one responsibility: “Hold on to my hand.”

God does the same with us. Your goal is not to know every detail of the future. Your goal is to hold the hand of the one who does and never, ever let him go.