

April
2023

Billings
Walk
To
Emmaus

W2E Times

Important Dates!

MEN's W2E, #82
January 18-21, 2024

WOMEN's W2E, #83
January 25-28, 2024

RETREAT
January 13, 2024
9:00 am

POTLUCK
February 3, 2024
5:00 pm

CHRISTMAS SING
December 24, 2023

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Wisdom for Each Day



The title of this article was inspired by the daily devotional (Wisdom for Each Day) written by Reverend Billy Graham. Daily devotionals are a great way to focus our thinking. In the writing Reverend Graham says "Most of all, let the word of God fill you and renew your mind every day. When our minds are on Christ, Satan has little room to maneuver."

We all take numerous actions and make countless decisions each day. How we approach our day-to-day life situations requires us to rely on our thinking. It's been said that experience is the best teacher, and we will learn our entire life. Do you have a favorite teacher? One that inspired you, pushed you to overcome challenges or genuinely cared about your success? School teachers jump to mind when we think about learning, but we also learn from others. We learn through expertise or from shared experiences with others.

My Grandfather was a farmer, blacksmith, and machinist by trade. I remember the smell of coal burning to heat his workshop during the cold Eastern Montana winters. I love the smell of burning coal! Watching all the fire and sparks fly as he cut metal, welded, and built was quite an impressive sight to see! I think about all the fabrication skills he could have taught me. Unfortunately, as a kid I was always more interested in riding motorcycles or driving tractors than learning practical skills. By the time I had an interest and appreciation for his knowledge in welding and fabrication he was in failing health due to old age. I certainly learned from him and he had an enormous impact on my life, but I regret missing additional opportunities to gain more wisdom from him.

Recognizing and embracing opportunities to enrich our lives and knowledge adds to our life experience and in turn helps build wisdom. The book of Proverbs emphasizes daily practical issues with a God-centered focus.

"Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance." (Prov 1:5)

The collection of Wisdom in Proverbs is meant to help us avoid the high cost of learning the hard way. If you could choose your teacher, who would it be? The main author and compiler of Proverbs - Solomon himself - had the best teacher! When Solomon asked God for an understanding heart so he could be a good leader of God's people, the Lord was pleased and gave Solomon an enormous capacity and hunger for wisdom. We have the same teacher - the best teacher, God! Using wisdom for the benefit of others is a noble purpose.

Drawing on wisdom allows us to see what God values. Trusting others comes from knowing them and forming strong bonds. From those bonds we know they have our best interests at heart and truly want what is best for us.

The decision to attend the Walk to Emmaus required trusting the encouragement of our sponsors. The assurances that it would be well worth the time to attend, and the impact would enrich our lives. The opportunity to learn from others when they're willing to share positive experiences, knowledge and insight is a gift not to be missed. Let's all remember that as we go about our daily lives and remember, **it's not too early to start thinking about those who we could sponsor for next year's Walk Weekends.**

De Colores,
Ryan Wittman

SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

If God had a refrigerator
your picture would be
on it.

The degree of our
surrender determines our
level of transformation.

Your time in the Bible will
yield either puffy
knowledge or liberating
truth.

Spiritual maturity is living
God's promises.

What comes into our
mind when we think
about God is the most
important thought of
who we are.

God never talks about our
lives. He talks about our
surrender.

Do you want God to join
you in your plans or do
you want to join Him in
his purpose?

The great battle in private
prayer is our wandering
thinking.

God's great concern for
us is with obedience, not
with outcomes.

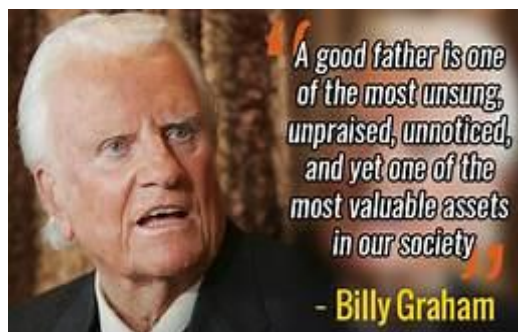
Remember that Jesus
loves everyone you come
in contact with.

You know they are in a
good relationship when
one cries and the other
can taste the salt.

Billy Graham's Parents

Billy Graham's parents were both committed Christians. Although he was a businessman, his father had at one time felt a desire to preach. But the way never seemed opened for him, and he reasoned it was not God's will. Yet he remained vigilant in praying that God would use him.

After Billy entered the ministry, his father said, *"I prayed for years for a way to be opened. But never once was there the slightest encouragement from God. My heart burned and I wondered why God did not answer my prayer. Now I feel I have the answer. I believe that my part was to raise a son to be a preacher."*



Sometimes God uses us differently than we planned. We pray that we may live lives of significance—which we often equate to doing something huge. But God may have a different life mapped out, something we wouldn't have thought of as significant, but is actually more significant than our original plan.

Don't be discouraged if life doesn't pan out the way you hoped. Remember, God is intricately involved in your daily life. He knows your steps and has a specific role for you in His kingdom. Take comfort in that truth today.

The Bubbling Casserole

A young boy and his dad were seated at the dining room table, while mom put the finishing touches on their Sunday dinner. While waiting, the father asked his son if he would say the prayer for their meal. The youngster nodded his head excitedly—but when his mother brought the food out, his enthusiasm faded.

Pausing for a moment to stare at the bubbling casserole set before him, the little boy shrugged his shoulders and prayed, *"God, I'm really not sure what it is. But thanks anyway. And I'll still eat it."*



One of the hardest things for believers to do is to trust that God knows what He's doing in your life—to believe that whatever He sets in front of you is for your good.

Instead, we often grow angry or afraid when God allows something into our lives that we don't expect or recognize. But you can exchange that anger and fear for joy when you learn to pray like Jesus and trust in God's will over your own.

The truth is God is in complete control, even when you can't make sense of what's going on. He loves you—and if you trust Him in all things—you'll experience the peace of His presences like you have never felt before.

ONE SENTENCE PRAYERS

Lord, thank You for Your Word and for empowering me to serve You through it. Amen.

Jesus, help me walk with You every day, confident that You lead me to life at its very best. Amen.

Jesus, I will trust You with my needs and all the unknown even when I cannot see a way through. Amen.

Jesus, reveal my blind spots to me and how to be free of them so I can walk in Your will. Amen.

Jesus, I will follow You no matter how difficult it gets, because I trust in You. Amen.

Jesus, thank You for forgiving my failures and transforming my life into a vessel for Your glory. Amen.

Jesus, I trust You are working everything together for good! Amen.

Jesus, reveal any self-will that's hindering me, and take Your rightful place on the throne of my heart. Amen.

Jesus, help me to remain firm in You until Your triumph comes. Amen.

Churchgoer

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

"I've gone to church for 30 years now. 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 their time."

This started a real controversy in the Letters to the Editor column. It went for weeks until someone wrote the following 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 for 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 these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"*

Quite often, people downplay the importance of church attendance simply because it doesn't give them the "spiritual high" they're looking for each and every week. But church doesn't exist to make you feel good. It exists to glorify God! Stay in church; learn and grow with other believers. While you might not remember everything, you can be sure that if you have a willing heart, you're being transformed into Christ's likeness.

Walk With God Alone?

There is the story of a man who actively participated in a church for several years but suddenly stopped attending. His pastor dropped by one evening unannounced. The man answered the door and invited him in. Of course, he knew why his pastor was there.

They went and sat on two chairs in front of a roaring fire. Neither man said anything. After a few minutes, the pastor picked up the fire tongs, took one of the logs out of the fire, and laid it on the hearth. The flames died down and flickered a few times before going out. They watched in silence as the log started to grow cold.

After a while, the pastor once again picked up the fire tongs and put the smoldering wood back with the burning logs. It immediately burst back into flame.

The pastor got up and said, "Well, I need to go now. But I've enjoyed our visit." The man rose too and said, "I appreciate your message, pastor. I will be in church on Sunday."

We really do grow cold in our faith when we try to walk with God alone.



Speak Up

A little boy was kneeling beside his bed with his mother and grandmother and softly saying his prayers. “Dear God, please bless Mummy and Daddy and all the family and please give me a good night’s sleep.

Suddenly he looked up and shouted, “And don’t forget to give me a bicycle for my birthday!!”

“There is no need to shout like that,” said his mother. “God isn’t deaf.”

“No,” he replied, “but Grandma is.”



Facing a Problem

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package: “What food might this contain?” The mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: “There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house.”

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, “Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it.”

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, “There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!” The pig sympathized, but said, “I am very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it, but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers.”

The mouse turned to the cow and said, “There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!” The cow said, “Wow, Mr. Mouse. I’m sorry for you, but it’s no skin off my nose.”

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer’s mousetrap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house—like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer’s wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer’s wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever.

Now everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup’s main ingredient. But his wife’s sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer’s wife did not get well, and she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them. The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn’t concern you, remember: when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life...