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As a wonderful gifts of His great love to you!

CROSSWIRED **Science**

Profoundly showing the glory of God through the things He has made.

**THIS IS A THE FIRST OF
4 CWS DEVOTIONS
FOR A FULL YEAR**

(Watch for the next edition coming soon.)

**7-Week Devotion
Printables**

If you desire any friends to have this packet, please send them to the website for their copy. Send them to crosswiredscience.com and scroll down the home page.

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Crosswired Science

7-week Devotional

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Read this devotion. Below write several personal applications.
For younger children, we suggest using the book “Indescribable” Louie Giglio

Petty, Petty and More Petty

*“O Lord...who may dwell on Thy holy hill?
He who walks in integrity, and works righteousness.”*
Psalms 15:1, 2

Selfish Plus

Did you know that the more selfish we are, the more we don't realize it? That's scary.

God wants us to understand the many ways He created us to bring joy to others, but first our own selfishness must be significantly dealt with. It can be quite eye-opening as God begins to reveal the extent of our self-centeredness. It's a lifetime-process for every believer, but we understand it most clearly when we look back over the years. Remembering my early teen years, I'm astounded at how petty I could be.



Camping Selfishness

We camped often as a family. We drove an older VW camper van, complete with stove, faucet, suspended bed, and closets. I loved it! As we rolled through the miles toward our destinations, we often traveled at night and slept in our designated sleeping spots in the back of the van.

Often my little brother was positioned next to me. I didn't mind that, but it really bugged me when his arm or leg flopped into MY area. I always spelled out the rules in hushed tones under my blanket, “Ken, if you cross this line (I rubbed my finger across an imaginary line between us) I will smash you.” Invariably an arm or a leg or other body part would cross the sacred line and with a big whack, I'd smack it until Ken moved it back. Ah! Such love.

My Stuff

A collection of comic books was my pride and joy. I had over 400 and they were strictly off limits to my little brother. I kept my very best ones in a secret stash under my bottom dresser drawer. When I felt like reading them I'd lock Ken out of the room, pull out the drawer, make my selection, then carefully place the drawer back so no one would discover my hiding place. Such kindness!

One day I forgot to lock the door and Ken walked in and saw me in the middle of my secret operation. I was so angry that I kicked a hole in the bedroom wall!



My dream treehouse stood twenty feet high, square on the tip-top of an avocado tree my dad had trimmed. It was great. Up there, where there were no branches to obscure my view, I could see everywhere.

I had an old army chest on my platform where I stored my goodies—which I, of course, kept locked to keep you-know-who out. I also kept the entrance door locked to have double security. “My stuff is my stuff” was my motto.

Do Nothing Out Of Selfishness

How are you doing with petty selfishness? God desires that your brothers, and sisters and Mom and Dad would become your good friends. That takes a lot of unselfishness, love and forgiveness. How are those relationships for you?

Philippians 2:3 says the most amazing thing: “Do nothing out of selfishness.” *Nothing*—nothing at all out of selfishness! That’s God’s desire for us.

Contrast my early teen years with that of Tabitha in the Bible. It says of her that she “...**abounded in deeds of kindness which she continually did...**” (Acts 9:36). That’s incredible! I didn’t begin to come close to that. How ‘bout you?

God intends that you and I also to abound in good things continually done for others like she did. Wow! What a goal to reach for.

Petty, Petty and More Petty (cont.)

I don't know if you know this it, but your flesh (who you were before you accepted Christ) can be perfectly content being selfish, angry, vengeful and mean. For an amazing amount of time, too. But is this how you want to live?



Psalms 15 says that the one who comes to God's hill (symbolic of God's presence) is the one who walks in God's ways. This means giving up petty selfishness, anger, revenge, and meanness.

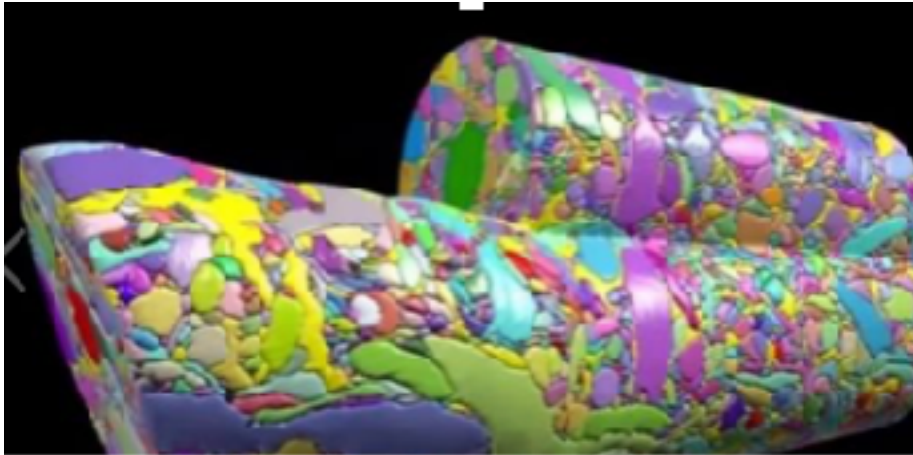
Do this. Struggle hard with the Lord's help to get free of the tentacles that can hold so tight. As you'll discover again and again that the joy of being close to God and loving others—and in turn being loved in God's time—is far, far better than living in the prison of selfishness and anger.

In reality, this is what God Himself created you for.

“...put on the new self... put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

Philippians 2:10, 12, 13

What are 5 ways you can apply this.



The Most Astonishing Picture Ever Made

This is 3-billionths of a mouse's brain. It took teams of scientists from Harvard and other universities 5 years to figure this out. They say it will take more computer data than is in the world today to map the human brain!

The really wild thing about this is that our DNA only has 30,000 coded regions. How can 30,000 of anything build a brain like that AND everything else in the human body? Apparently DNA is the ultimate condensation of knowledge, requiring an Infinite Mind to weave it all together!

I believe this picture may be the most astonishing picture ever made showing the infinite complexity of the Creation. Think about it...This is three BILLIONTHS of a mouse's brain.

Multiply it by 300 million and you have a mouse's computer. How can it possibly work? How can our brains work?

They say that we are continually making ten million 3-11 dimension temporary electrical structures in every BB-sized part of the brain. AND THEY THINK THAT THIS IS WHERE WE MAY STORE MEMORY!

Huh? This is computerization of another universe! If our God is the designer of brains like this and He makes beautiful things like toucans and turtles, what is to come in heaven by the working of His great power?

This verse gives us an idea: ***"Things which the eye has not seen, and the ear not heard, and which have not entered the mind of man..all this God has prepared for those who love Him."***—2 Corinthians .2:9

The Most Astonishing Picture Ever Made (cont.)

The Bible tells us that: “Great is the Lord and abundant in strength. His understanding is INFINITE.” Psalms 147:5 This means that God *perfectly* understands every detail of our lives and has all the power needed to help. What does this mean for you?

It means there is good reason to give God *everything* that is weighing on you. Your infinite God wholly knows every detail and has the *every* answer all planned out. Do what Peter told people to do: “**Cast your cares upon Him because He cares for you.**” 1 Peter 5:7

Put in **2 examples** where God has done great things which you did not expect. Also list **3 examples** where you are bringing your needs now to the Lord for help.

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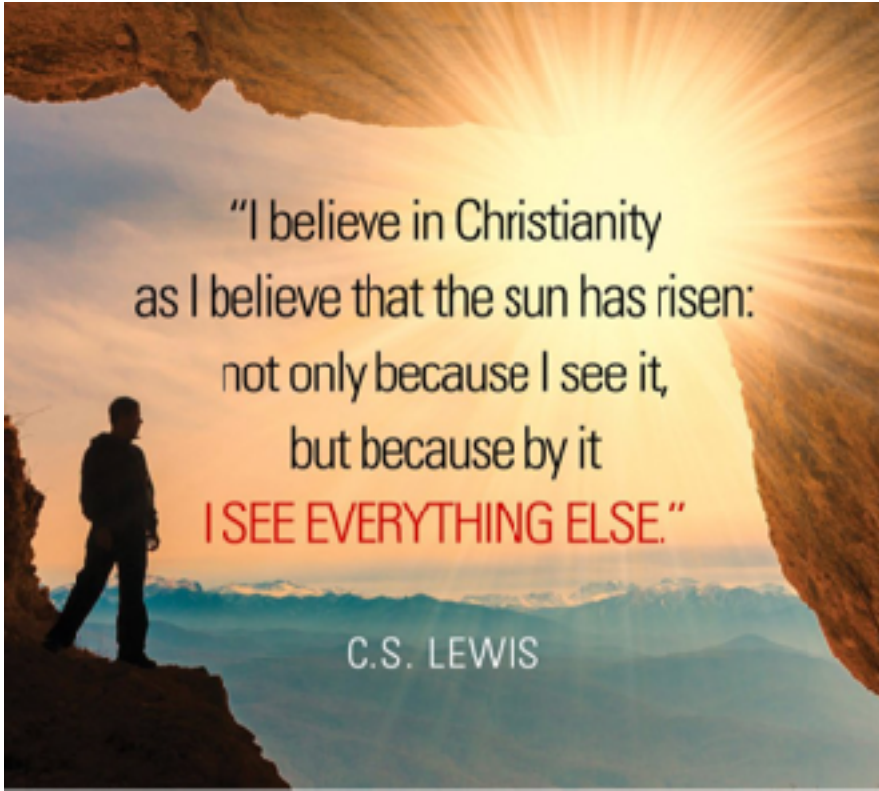
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“Is there a fish in the sea, or a bird in the air that was formed by chance? No; in every bone, joint, and muscle, sinew, gland and blood vessel, you see the presence of a God working everything according to the design of Infinite Wisdom.”
CS Spurgeon



Write a few sentences about both quotes and what they mean to you, or chose one that is the most meaningful to you and explain why.

Read this devotion. Below write several personal applications.

Bottles in a Bathtub and Oxen in a Barn

"A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man holds it back." Proverbs 29:11

A Really Weird Habit

I once knew a young lady with a most unusual habit. She collected bottles. Any bottles. You'll never believe what she did with them.

Linda had just become a Christian when I met her. Her background was rough—to the extreme. One of the results of her past was that she struggled with anger. She knew it was wrong, but she didn't have a clue how to control her anger. So she bought a cast iron bathtub and collected bottles.



I could have used the bathtub to soak in and let my boys shoot the bottles with their B.B. guns, but not Linda. Her tub helped her with her anger. How? Get this.

She moved the tub to the basement of her house. When she got really upset, she'd march downstairs, position herself in front of the bathtub, grab some bottles and begin heaving them wildly into it. And could she throw hard!



When she had finally burnt off her anger—a couple dozen bottles later—she'd head back upstairs and continue on with life as if nothing had happened.

Can you imagine going over to Linda's place for dinner? Whew! What if you said something that upset her? She'd thunder downstairs, then you'd hear "Boom, crash, screech, wham!" for five minutes or so.

Finally, you'd see her emerge, sweating and smiling, and calmly sit back down to dinner. I think I'd lose my appetite. There's got to be a better way.

Anger Problems?

Do you have a problem with anger? The Bible has a lot to say about the subject. "A fool always loses his temper" (Proverbs 29:11). "A man of great anger shall bear the penalty." (Proverbs 19:19). "Do not associate with a man of great anger" (Proverbs 22:24). "A quick-tempered man acts foolishly." (Proverbs 14:17)



The other day I got mad about something. Then I did something dumb. Right afterward I remembered, “**A quick-tempered man acts foolishly.**” I felt horrible and doubly-dumb. Ever been there?

We all know that uncontrolled anger is wrong and maybe we’ve tried to overcome our anger, but have found it difficult. The following stories are helpful.

Love Marks

When we were building our house, one of my sons made a big mistake. He marked an important board wrong and it was cut too short and we couldn’t fix it. Later, whenever we walked up the sidewalk to our house, it was impossible to miss seeing the big blunder. Whenever I saw this mistake it bothered me.

Then one day I heard someone suggest that irritating mistakes by family members could be considered “love-marks”. A bit corny, I know, but an interesting thought. He said that whenever you deal with others, things won’t necessarily be done perfectly. Rather than being so concerned that things look and work exactly right, let imperfections be a reminder of the joy and the blessing of your relationships.

That suggestion has immensely helped. It has been 25 years since we built the house and that short board still serves as a happy reminder of the sweet times we had together building our house.

Got love marks on anything? The one who put them there won’t always be with you. Be immensely grateful for them now. It’ll help with the love marks. :)

Your Oxen

An interesting insight dealing with frustrating situations like this is found in Proverbs 14:4, “**Where there are no oxen the manger is clean, but much increase comes from the strength of the ox.**” Oxen aren’t exactly potty trained so they make a big mess. But boy are they strong. Many a farmer through the ages has been helped greatly by their strength.



You might have friends, siblings, or others who are like oxen to you. There’s ox 1, ox 2, ox 3 and so on. They might break your things, make messes, tell you to do things, upset your schedule or make a disaster of your “manger.” But if you invest time in them and encourage them as you ought to, they can end up

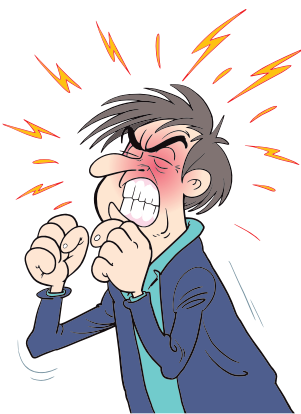
being quite a blessing. Much “increase” can come from your “oxen”. Just don’t call them that...it probably won’t help your cause much.

Deny Your Right To Be Angry

A second principle that helps to unlock the foothold of anger is to realize what Jesus meant when he said, “Deny yourself” (Mark 8:34). It doesn’t mean to deny your existence. (That’s not too smart.) Rather it means, among other things, to deny your “upset-ness.”

This is the opposite of reacting when you’re mistreated, having sour attitudes like, “I’ll never forgive them,” “I’ll never talk to them,” “I’ll never let them use MY stuff again,” or “I deserve to be treated better than that.” This stops God’s power.

God wants us to yield our desire to be treated right to Him. If we are mistreated, He wants us to make every effort to let go of bitterness and to trust Him to work out our situations for far better than what would have been there had the situation not happened.



It’s Not Fair! But...

Oh, you might say “It’s hard to do that. It’s not fair!” This is true on both counts. Because of that, turning away from anger can be very difficult.

Two passages that give grace to help are Matthew 16:24, 25 and Galatians 6:8. These say that if we don’t feed our flesh with anger, bitterness and revenge, but instead we deny ourselves, then we will “find our lives”—we will enter into what the Bible calls “Life”—God’s righteousness, joy and peace. (see Romans 14:17)

Many people stubbornly hold onto anger. That’s a big, big mistake. It’s MUCH better to enter into God’s goodness and have His joy and help . It’s far better than holding onto anger or feeling sorry for yourself.

Joseph

Joseph is one of God’s great examples in the Overcoming Anger Department.

Bottles in a Bathtub (cont.)

People deliberately hurt him. But, he brought all the consequences to God and served his God where he landed after the devastation. In time, he saw God's power work in unprecedented ways to bring him amazing blessing.

And, not only that, but God also made him a giver of God's hope to others for thousands of years since. God meant it for very good! What wonderful results for seeking God's help over bitterness, self-pity and anger!



Follow God's way and, just as He did with Joseph, He will bring you into surprising, amazing places that you never, ever expected.

***“We went through fire and water...”
Yet You brought us into a place of abundance.”
Psalms 66:12***

The “fires” people face are often caused by others' selfishness and meanness. God Himself brings us into His abundant places as we seek Him for our responses.

List 5 ways you can put this into practice.

Incredible Fruit

A Fiend for Avocados

I always love it when an avocado on the counter becomes perfectly ripe. I am an avocado fiend. I LOVE avocados.

As I ate my salted avocado today, I again marveled at how they build themselves on the tree. There are molecules brought into the fruit to make the avocado that we eat, yet, when you eat an avocado, there is no trace of any piping to bring in all the molecules. Yet there are galaxy numbers of them!

The same is true with a strawberry, a cantaloupe, a banana or a watermelon. It's all completely tasty fruit, without any visible piping!



Wood Pipes

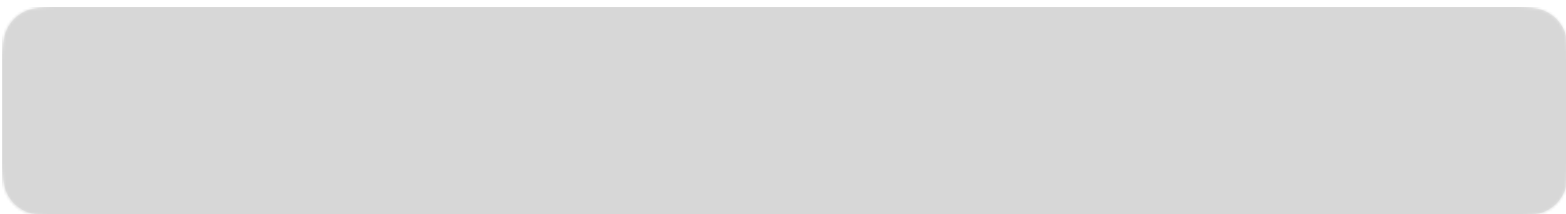
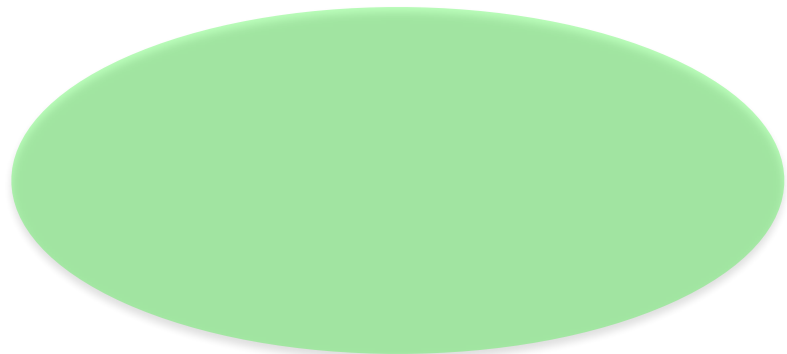
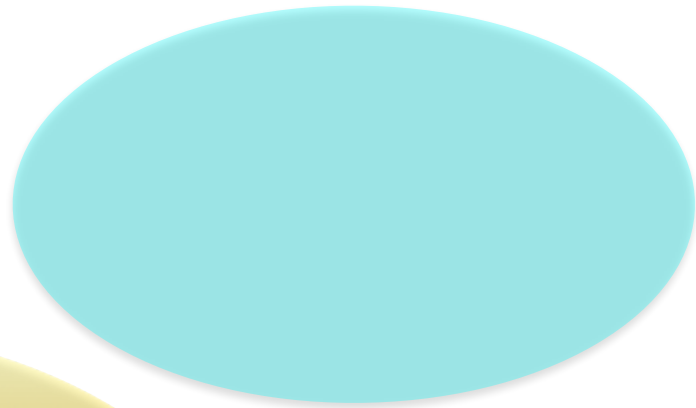
If you grab a piece of 2x4 lumber, if it is thin enough, you can put the sawed end up to your mouth and breathe through it. There are two kinds of pipes that make up wood, xylem water pipes and phloem sap pipes. When you breathe through a thin slice of 2x4, you are breathing thorough empty xylem pipes.

Where are both kinds of pipes in fruit? How did God make fruit with no visible piping? I'm not sure. But I certainly consider fruit as a very special gift from God.

Use the food you eat today as a reminder that you aren't alone today. Look up this new day to the Lord who made heaven and Earth. and Let Him be your chief focus in all you do in this new day ahead.

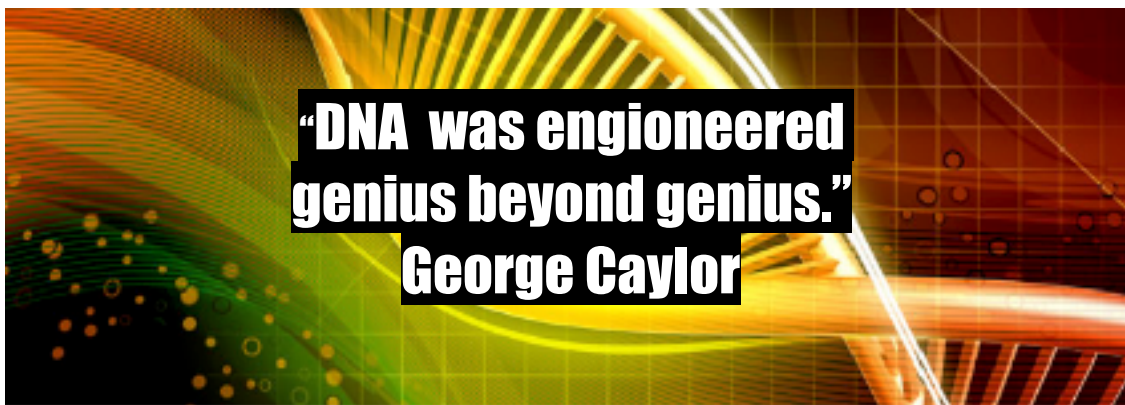
List 5 created things other than fruit that show the reality of this verse: "*The Earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord.*" –Psalms 33:5.

In the bottom gray box, write how you think God made it so fruit is apparently not permeated with tubes like wood is.



Sir James Young Simpson ***(1811-1907) Pioneer of Anesthetics***

“But again I looked and saw Jesus, my substitute, scourged in my stead and dying on the cross for me. I looked and cried and was forgiven. And it seems to be my duty to tell you of that Savior, to see if you will not also look and live: How simple it all becomes when the Holy Spirit opens the eyes!”



Write a few sentences about both quotes and what they mean to you, or chose one that is the most meaningful to you and explain why.

A Tale of Two Cars

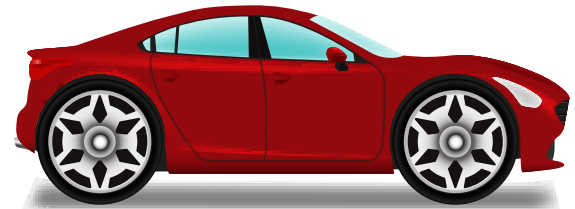
*“We are poorly clothed, we are roughly treated...
we have become as the scum of the world.”*

I Corinthians 4:11, 13

It’s not all bad that you might not have as much as the next guy. You might be on course like Paul to make a massive dent in the world for the Lord’s glory.

Plush Passages

While in my twenties, I owned an amazing car that attracted lots of attention—but not for the reasons you might expect. Here’s what happened.

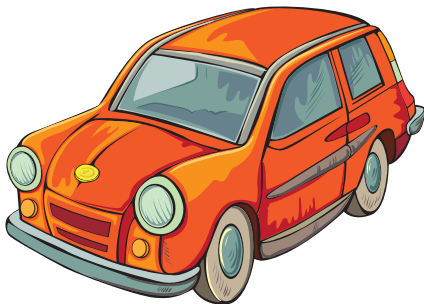


A unique opportunity came my way to own a really nice car. It was plush plus. I was able to borrow it for a few weeks before I got it.

While driving it around, I noticed people regarded me differently as I stepped out of my prestigious car. Part of me enjoyed being treated as someone important—yet there was an inner struggle. My goal in life was to please the Lord—not impress people. I decided not to get the car.

A Wanna-Be–Hippy Mobile

A little while later a second opportunity presented itself—and what an opportunity it was!



A dear friend of mine, who had been a wanna-be hippy, decided to sell his car. This was no ordinary car. It had huge rusted dents from various collisions everywhere—on the front, the back, the two sides, and even in the hood and on the roof! All the upholstery was torn up and the dashboard had cracks as wide as my fingers. It was filthy. But it sure was cheap.

While I was trying to decide whether I should buy the junkyard special, I'd read about some of Apostle Paul's hardships in the Bible. He made the amazing statement, “***We are as the scum of the earth.***” By this he meant that others had nice situations, good clothes and many possessions, but he, and some people working with him, had little. That’s no fun, is it? But why was Paul in his situation?

Because he was making every effort to spread the Gospel in very difficult times. Paul had an exceptionally deep relationship with God, so I reasoned I ought to follow in his footsteps. I bought the car.

A Tale of Two Cars (cont.)

Attention...Whoops!

My first day on the road surprised me. My little car drew attention everywhere I drove. When I traveled through town, people would stop and stare. Some would point and laugh. While stopped at red lights, I could see every eye turn toward me. I hadn't been afraid of people's opinions much since I dedicated my life to Christ—in fact, I'd come to enjoy being different from others and walking according to my own convictions instead of mindlessly following the crowd.

But...all the staring eyes and laughs started getting a bit tough to handle as I drove around in my little bomb of a car.

By the third day, I found myself squeezing down in my seat so people wouldn't notice me as I drove along. If you could have seen me in my car, all you would have seen was a head with eyes poking up just high enough to see over the dashboard. It was difficult driving like someone who's four feet tall when you top six feet!

But in spite of my embarrassment, I was determined to be different and drive my little ultra-economy dirt-cheap junker on wheels—regardless of people's opinions. But, God had mercy on me.

Very Happily Praising God For A Problem!

On the tenth day, my rusted treasure developed a water leak. That's a problem...a BIG problem. But like most items in the car, the temperature gauge didn't work.

By the time I got home, the engine had over-heated, and—in a quarter-mile of puffs of smoke—it was no more. It was a bitter-sweet day when the wreckers took my little rust pile to car heaven. My kids jumped for joy.



We bought another car somewhere between luxury-plus and moving-wreck. Our new car served us well and I learned another lesson of balance in the Christian life. The words of Proverbs 30:8 took on a whole new meaning, “***Give me neither poverty nor riches.***”

God's Balance 4 U

How about you? Have you found God's balance for you? Do your clothes and possessions reflect the Lord in a way He would be pleased, or are you excessive in either direction?

A Tale of Two Cars (cont.)



Car Pride

Some people take pride in sloppiness. Others take pride in impressiveness and have never realized that the God of the universe loves them. They try to fill the need for love by trying to win people’s approval by acquiring all the nicest clothes and possessions.

Another route people take is to go the route of pursuing the highest grades or highest praises at work. Still others wear themselves out trying to super-excel in athletics or some skill—anything to get attention, approval, acceptance and admiration.

That’s a hard life. People’s shallow approval can turn to disapproval in a moment of time—as I found out when I switched cars from snazzy-plus to rust-on-wheels.

Choose to be a person who lives moderately. Seek to be God’s man or God’s woman where your goal is to be God’s instrument to help, bless, and encourage others—not to impress them.

Loving—not impressing—is the realm we were created to live in. Remember those close to you in your own family, then move outward from there. This will bring you into a meaningful life, full of pleasing God and true purpose.

What are 5 ways you can apply this.

Snowflakes & Mountains

Shapes that Cause Themselves and Don't Cause Themselves

When you look at snowflakes or crystals, you are looking at shapes that cause themselves. Their beauty is dictated by the properties of the molecules and their response to external conditions.

However, when you look at designs like a peacock feather, a pine cone or a flower, you're seeing beauty which is forced on randomly wandering atoms by astonishingly complex DNA-controlled atomic machines. They seize unthinkably small atoms and force them into place to create masterpieces.

The Power of the Builder

Both the randomly formed snowflakes and rock crystals and the DNA-built beauties like shells, flowers and feathers show the majesty, beauty and power of the Builder of all things. (Hebrews 3:4) God is smart enough to create atomic particles that can come by beauty from multiple pathways. Don't let supposed random beauty like the beauty of mountains, rocks, streams and shores cause you to miss the God-caused-them truth.



A Trillion Times a Second!

Every atom has some sub-atomic parts which are shifting position a trillion times a second. The atoms themselves are vibrating at precise rates numbering in thousands of times a second and have parts screaming around them millions of times every time you blink. The numbers of vibrations never ever changes one iota over thousands of years.

All the greatest minds on earth cannot fully comprehend even one atom of oxygen—or any other atom. Yet, they all hold together to make apple pie and ice cream for your dessert. Despite their astonishing movement, they hold so well together by molecular forces that you move around this world in a body's collection of them of far greater numbers than a trillion times the sand grains on earth!

Snowflakes & Mountains (cont.)

When the Word says that God is worthy of our affection, our absolute confidence and our greatest admiration and worship, it's to help us understand reality. He is greater than we can ever fathom—yet at the same time He has affection for each of us fantastically greater than we will ever fully comprehend.

Live this: **“When I cannot read, when I cannot think, when I cannot even pray, I can trust.”**—Hudson Taylor.

Keep looking to the One who created galaxies and snowflakes by thinking them into existence. This One goes before you and beside you. He crushes and moves all mountains and valleys to pull off the beautiful and extraordinary purposes of His intents both for you AND through you. Trust in the heat. He won't disappoint you.

Check these out! <https://www.treehugger.com/natural-sciences/macro-photos-snowflakes-show-impossibly-perfect-designs.html>

Record **2 examples** where you trusted the Lord and God He helped you. Also list **3 examples** where you are currently trusting the Lord but have not yet seen an answer to your need or your desire.

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2.

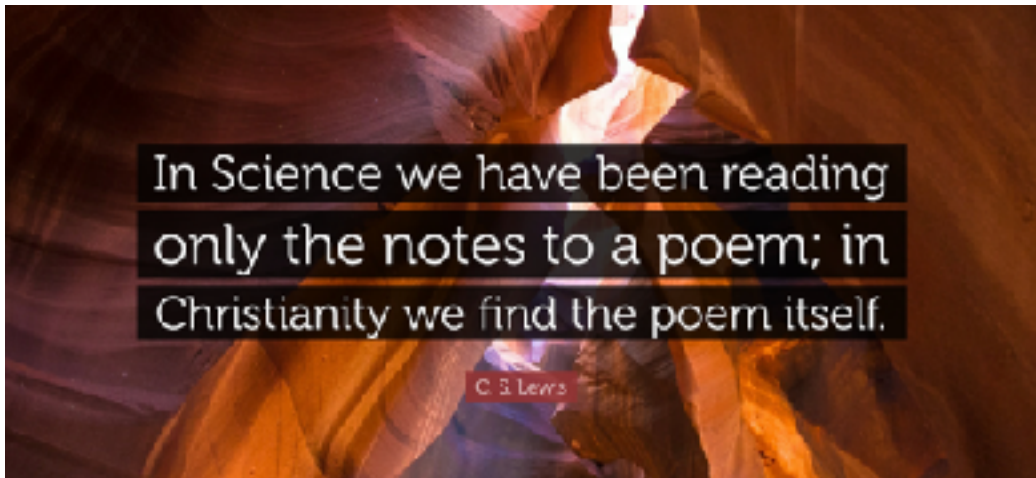
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**Sir Ambrose
(1849-1945), pioneer of electronics**

“There is abundant evidence that the Bible, though written by men, is not the product of the human mind. By countless multitudes it has always been revered as a communication to us from the Creator of the Universe.”



Write a few sentences about both quotes and what they mean to you, or chose one that is the most meaningful to you and explain why.

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George— The Tough Guy

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Romans 12:2

Being renewed in mind affects every hour of every day.

Too Cool

I will never forget sixteen-year old George. He was a small, average built boy with an attitude. He came into my life one summer during a week-long Colorado river float trip. Someone had invited him and his two buddies to come along so that they might hear about God. I knew I was in for trouble when all three disappeared the first night. We found them up-river at another camp trying to get acquainted real fast with some girls!

George was always trying to be cool. He tried to act cool, dress cool, talk cool, and, as I humorously learned, walk cool.

One day I took these three fellows up a trail out the back side of camp. The rocks we walked on were sharp and *very* hot. I didn't mind. My feet were calloused. So were George's buddies'. But, poor George; his feet were baby soft. I suggested shoes for his tender tootsies. Nope. Not for George. He was too tough—too cool.



We walked for about an hour while George winced with increasing pain, rejecting all offers of a piggy-back ride. He didn't want to be known as a softy. It was so sad. No one in our group would have made fun of him. It was all in his mind; but there was no convincing George.

Lost In A Maze

Later, a few of us planned to swim fifty yards across the river for ice cream treats, at a store on the opposite side. We were all strong swimmers—except George. I asked him if he wanted a raft. Nope, not George. He was tough, right? Wrong. If we hadn't been alongside him to help him, he wouldn't have made it across.

With much help, he managed to emerge on the other side coughing and sputtering—but at least he made it. On the way back I insisted on an inner tube for swim-less George. Unfortunately, because he was such a slow paddler, the swift current took us down river and we overshot our camp.

We beached smack in the middle of a wilderness of nearly impenetrable fifteen-foot-tall river plants,. I groaned. It was going to be a big job to get through this wall of vegetation. As for George, though, he was tough. “No problem,” he boasted.

After an hour and a half of crawling on our stomachs—often over hidden thorns and spikes—we were worn out. George's earlier optimism was fading fast. Climbing a flimsy tree, I saw that we had made little progress due to the widening strip of vegetation we had crawled into. With this bleak news, George and his buddies became desperate. One suggested we should pray.



George looked really scared. I asked him if he wanted to pray, too. He gave an emphatic, “Yes!” Probably for the first time in his life he talked with God. Soon afterward, we “accidentally” stumbled onto an animal trail through the maze of bushes. Amazingly, we got out within fifteen minutes.

Oh To Impress!

After that experience, I had hopes for George. He had actually prayed and witnessed a tiny miracle. But his spiritual inclinations were short-lived.

Once home from the river trip, he rejoined his old buddies. It was back to the game of trying to prove how cool he was. I felt sad, very sad. I had lost George, whom I'd come to love, to peer-pressure. Who knows where he is today.

How are you doing with mankind's great malady—seeking to impress people? If your self-image is something you secretly struggle with, you can be especially vulnerable.

Real Stupidity

This last summer, I sat with a twenty-one-year-old young man at the bottom of a cave. As we were gazing at the spiral staircase that stretched up 120 feet into the cavern, he told me something I could hardly believe.

“I climbed that last month,” he boasted, pointing up to the cage which wrapped around the towering staircase.

“You’re kidding!” I replied in disbelief. “On the outside?”

“Yep. All the way up. I almost fell at the top because I got dizzy, but I grabbed the bar up there at



the top of the rail.” If he would have fallen he would have died. He said he did it because his buddies dared him. How incredibly stupid. And all to impress some really foolish guys.

Better To Be Alone And Let God Add

God says, “Don’t be conformed or influenced by the wrong crowd (See Romans 12:1, 2).

Five years ago, my son Jerry worked with three nice guys. One day, the car his three friends and another young man were driving on the freeway spun out of control at 110 mph. All four of them were instantly killed because no one had the courage to say, “This is foolish. Stop!” How tragic.

George Washington said, “It is better to be alone than to be in bad company.”

Bad company drags you down. Separate yourself from it—even if it is difficult. Just as 2 Corinthians 6: 16-18 says, “... for we are the temple of God, just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them and I will be their God and they will My people. Therefore come out from their midst and be separate,’ says the Lord. ‘And do not touch what is unclean and I will be a Father to you. And you shall be sons, and daughters to Me,’ says the Lord Almighty.”



God Understands

God understands our need for friendships. He desires to add friendships to our lives built on love and sincere concern for one another.

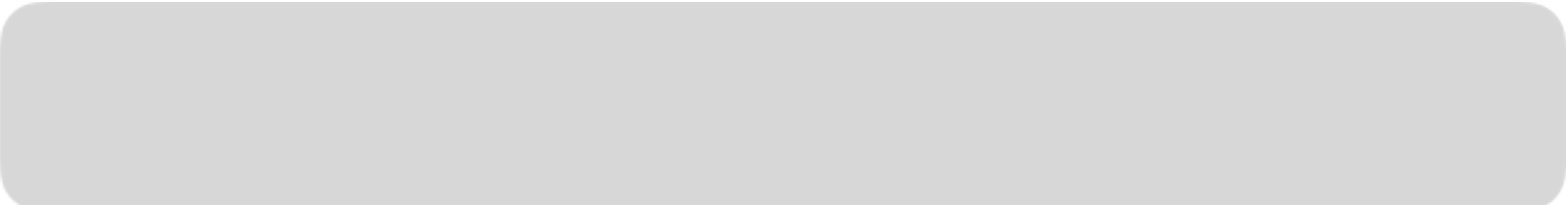
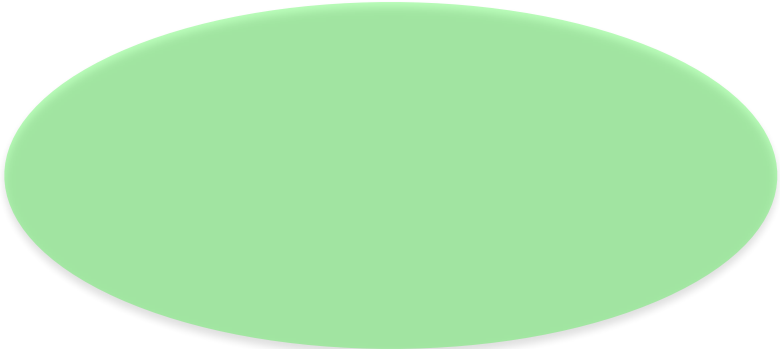
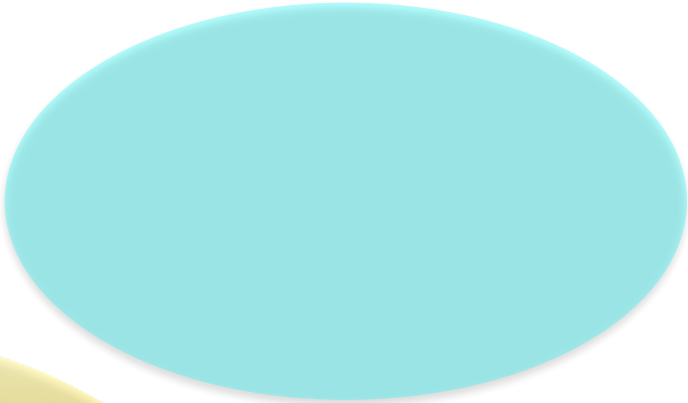
Wholly trust God with this significant need of your heart. If you let Him, God will help you in His own perfect time. You will be deeply happy when you see God’s good plans for you come to pass.

Meanwhile, obey Him, by not having intimate friendships that influence you wrongly: **“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” – Proverbs 13:20.** Dare to be different than the crowd.

**“By them (God’s instruction for life) Thy servant is warned,
In keeping them there is GREAT reward.”**

Psalms 19:11

List 6 ways you are or have been or may be influenced by the opinion of others to conform to the ways of others in ways that are not good. It could be in things as small as the words you speak. Go into detail.





Astonishing Fan Feathers

These feathers are fan-shaped!. Each fan is made of exact length hair-like barbs. The barb "strings" and the feathers are both spaced precisely. The colors are made by million of thin fingernail-like panels that are precise thicknesses accurate to 1/100th the thickness of a hair!

These structural color mirrors send light back on itself destroying some of the colors of the rainbow. This produces the necessary correct colors. And an invisible four "digit" code BUILT all this.

Would you know how to put four things in the right order to move atoms of hummer food around and build each feather...without any hands rot move things and with out eyes to see how all is looking?

Not me. Yet God knew how He wanted to bless us with a beautiful creature that was also an astonishing aerodynamic wonder. He created the unseen code to build it all form nectar and dissolved insects.

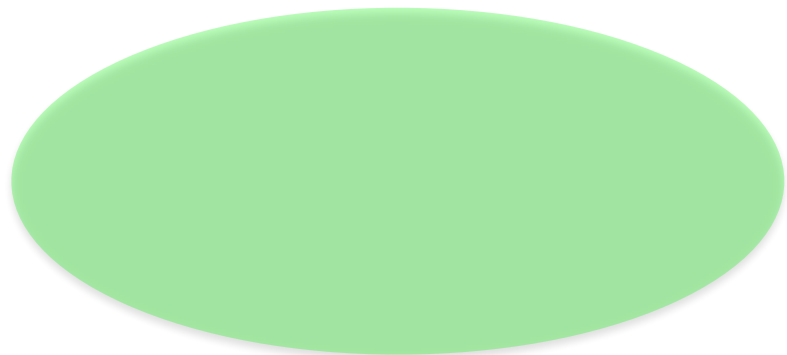
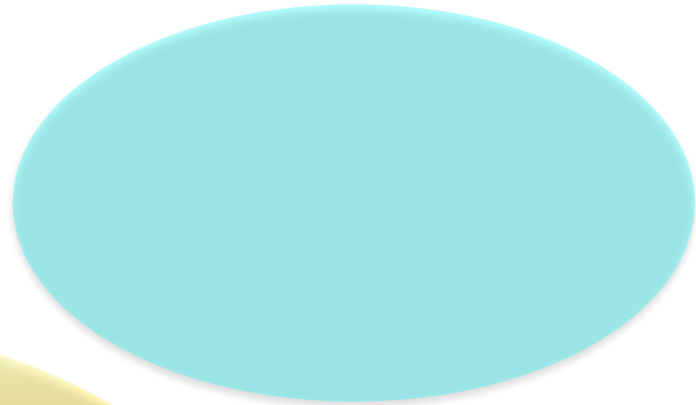
Trust that God has WELL thought-out plans and wonders for you, too.

"I KNOW My plans for you..." –Jer.29:11

List 3 groups of things that God planned in your life that you have already experienced.

List 3 more groups of things you want to experience God's plans for.

(The items in each group do not have to be related.)

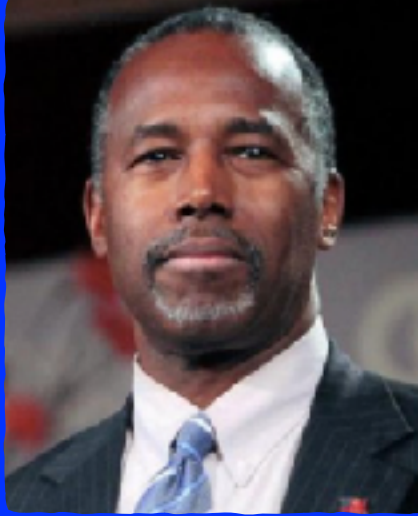


Michael Faraday

(1791-1867) Pioneer of Electric Motors

When asked about his belief in the afterlife, Michael Faraday quoted the Bible.

“Speculations? I have none. I am resting on certainties. ‘I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.’ ”–2 Timothy 1:12:



I always pray for God's guidance in my life and he always provides it. He opens the right doors he shuts the right doors. And I have tremendous faith in him. He just guided my career in an amazing way.

- Benjamin Carson -

Write a few sentences about both quotes and what they mean to you, or chose one that is the most meaningful to you and explain why.

Cast Your Shoe on the Waters

“He who goes to and fro weeping carrying his bag of seed shall indeed come again with a shout of joy bringing his sheaves with him.”

Psalms 126:6

Ring Bolt Rapids, See Ya

After three hours of rafting along the Colorado River down from the massive Hoover Dam, you barely blink on your way through what used to be the infamous Ring Bolt Rapids. There was a great rapid there years ago that tossed boats like little toys. Rafters had to anchor to huge iron rings in the cliffs and use ropes to haul their boats up the raging waters.

Well, the rapids are not so dangerous anymore—in fact, they’re barely there. The next dam built downriver raised the water level so high that now you have to strain your eyes even to see a bump in the calm waters.

Nevertheless on one of my float trips down from massive Hoover dam, one of our not-so-alert campers managed to drop one of his beloved Nike tennis shoes overboard when we yawned our way through the extinct rapids. The current inched it away at a snail’s pace, but he didn’t realize it until it was too far from the boats to retrieve. Bye-bye tennis shoe! He must have been sentimentally attached to the old shoe for he was a bit sullen that night. I had trouble relating.



water... coming right toward me.

Tennie Ahoy!

The next morning I walked by the tranquil waters of the river beside our camp to have some time with God. All was quiet, except for the occasional sounds of the cliff swallows darting for breakfast overhead.

As the morning sun painted the top of the cliffs bright orange, my heart filled with praise and awe toward God for His beauty all around me. Then I saw it. The tennie. In the



Huh? Perplexed, I waded in a few feet, retrieved his waterlogged treasure, then tried to figure out how it could possibly have managed to float upriver. Finally, I concluded that it must have somehow got caught in a big eddy (a whirl of water) stirred up by the submerged rocks of the rapids. How convenient!

I tossed the sogged shoe onshore. A verse sprang to mind, “**Cast your bread on the waters and after many days it will return to you.**” –Ecclesiastes 11:1. I laughed.

I have no idea of what Solomon was referring to when he said “bread,” but it surely applied to my friend’s lost shoe. He “cast it”—albeit unintentionally—and it returned. We had a sloshy, but happy, tenderfoot that morning 😊.

Sowing In Hope All Day

There’s a spiritual application. God does not want us to grow weary in reaching out to others—or to a specific other person. You can think of this as “casting your bread.” The Bible calls it “sowing.”

Ecclesiastes 11:6 says something interesting about this: “**Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.**”

This verse is significant if you apply it to spiritual sowing in other’s lives. We’re to look for opportunities to help, encourage, and reach out to others in the morning and not miss the opportunities in the afternoon or in the evening. We don’t know when God will mightily use our “sowing,” but we’re to sow in hope and keep on sowing, looking to Him all day long and all evening long for His will.



Blessing When It’s Totally Not Expected

It’s common to be “drowsy in heart” in the afternoon as the day gets weary. In business, they say that if you want to get something significant done, do it in the morning. The problem with this in spiritual issues is that you never know when God is going to move.

In Genesis 18, Abraham was sitting in his tent *in the heat of the day*. This wasn’t morning. Three angels came to visit him and tell him the great news that would change the rest of his life.

Abraham rose to help them. He wasn't slacking in the afternoon. In the process he learned of God's great plan for him and Sarah.

He was alert and ready to serve when another might have shut down for the day. He received God's completely surprising intervention for himself and his family in the process.

Stay Alert For Others' Sakes



The lesson is straight-forward. Stay alert and don't miss opportunities—after lunch and beyond. Love God and reach out to bless others morning, noon and night. Cast your tennie—whoops— I mean your “bread”—on the water of others' lives, And, after some days, you'll return to learn about what God did through you!

“What matters most in a person’s life is not the spectacular and heroic acts of devotion, but the little nameless prayers and deeds of love done day-by-day.”

What are 5 ways you can apply this.

God and Bug Brains

Bug Brains and Ours

Insects shock neuro-scientists. They don't have their brains concentrated in one spot like we do, but instead have many groups of nerves called ganglia. But even with all of these, they don't have near the amount of brain wiring to accomplish what they do. A dragonfly or an ant, for instance, can pull off movements that all the power of our greatest super-computers can't copy. It's like their tiny brain centers are of an other-universe technology.

When you think of it, we are too. Our brain is constantly monitoring all our body processes, detecting the environment through billions of sensors, storing lifetime memories, creating thoughts and tying them together in unknown ways balancing all chemical processes and enabling us to communicate with others and

understand what they are trying to get across to us. It's all so astonishing—way too wonderful for us.



Beyond Star Wars Tech

The Being who created the too-small-to-see code that builds this beyond Star Wars neuro-network between our ears says many profound things to us. One thing is to forgive—for others' sake, and also for ours. He promises: ***"I WILL work all for your profound good by the greatness of My power which infinitely surpasses every other power."***



I struggled for some time to completely forgive someone,—a believer—whom I'd known for less than 5 years. This beloved person effectively deceived me and took \$30,000 from me. Forgiving was easy until hardships began to hit as a direct result of their action.

As many months of consequences hit where God didn't send a great miracle to fix the situation, a struggle arose in trusting God. But, I eventually found complete freedom though negative effects are still present.

God and Bug Brains (cont.)

This morning I had a shocking realization about this. Two of the greatest miracles of my life occurred as a direct result of the effects of this action. If I'd had the money, I would have been in a different place and would have missed some THE most profound moves of God in my life.

The God of neuro-networks came through for me, And, today, I finally understood what beautiful things He was aiming for.

How incredibly small the money is now!



Record **2 examples** where you forgave someone and God worked it wonderfully for your Good. Also list **3 examples** where you are currently forgiving others but have not yet seen the “**outcome of the Lord.**”—James 5:11

1.

2.

3.

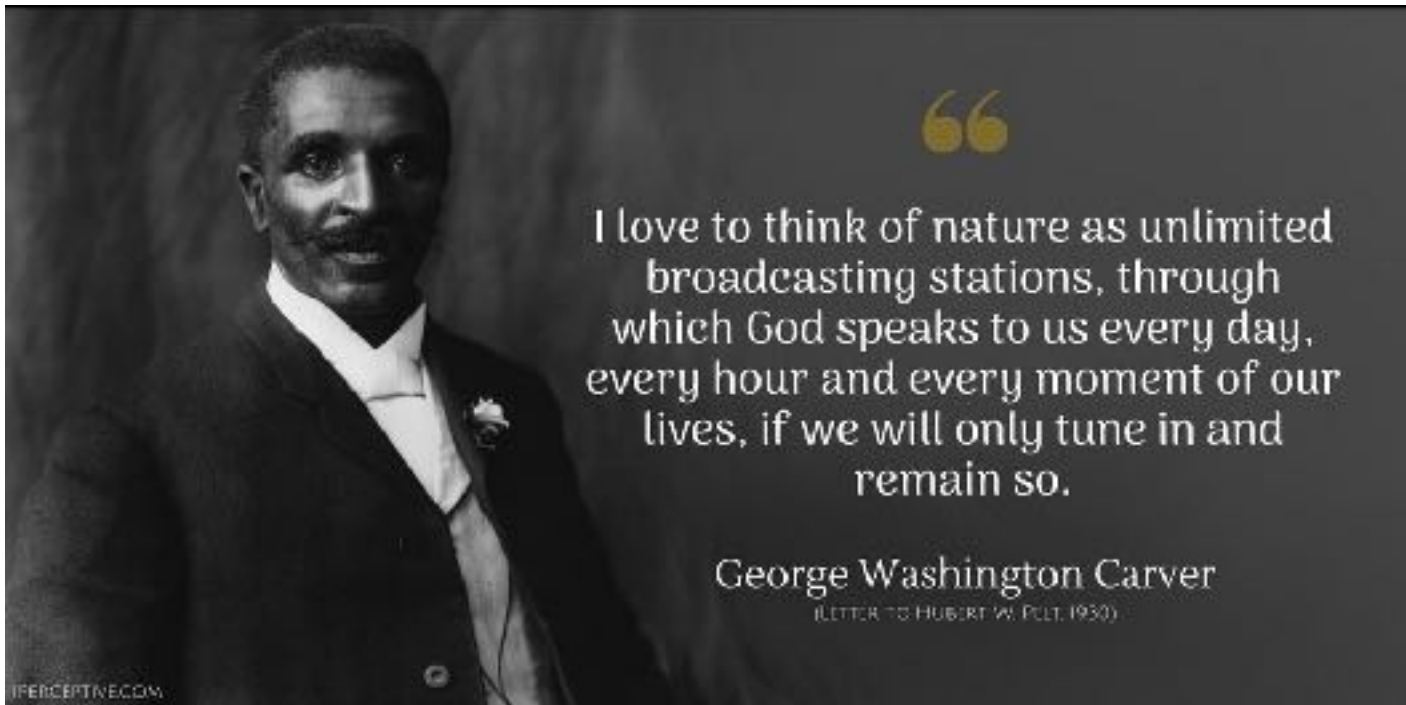
4.

5.

Michael Faraday

In a public talk on science and religion Michael Faraday said:

“The book of nature which we have to read is written by the finger of God.”



Write a few sentences about both quotes and what they mean to you, or chose one that is the most meaningful to you and explain why.

Ralph the Square Dog

“I have made the earth, the men and the beasts which are on the face of the earth by My great power and by My outstretched arm. I will give it to the one who is pleasing in My sight.”

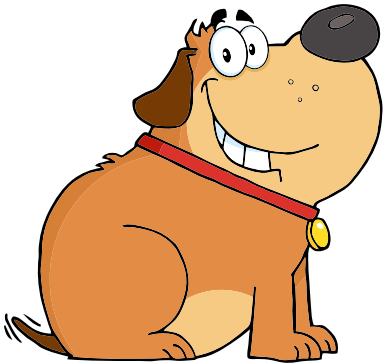
Jeremiah 27:5

A Bit Lacking In Creativity!

My family was a bit weird when it came to dogs.

I had a dog named Ralph up ‘till the time I was ten. When Ralph #1 passed on, we got a new dog. Guess what his name was. Ralph #2.

When Ralph #2 went to doggie heaven, guess what our next new dog’s name was. You guessed it. Ralph #3. And so it went my entire childhood. I don’t know exactly why we did that. I guess every family has its oddities.



Chunky Plus!

Our last Ralph was square. He was as wide as he was long. He was so chunky that he was like a box with legs. How my little brother loved that fat dog!

Once he got his driver’s license, the dog traveled with him everywhere. Ken and Ralph. Ralph and Ken. The best of buddies. When he had a girlfriend and went driving it became Ken and

Ralph plus girl—with the girl on the outside.

One time Ken took him backpacking in the snow. As my brother trudged through the foot-deep snow toward his destination, big wide Ralph ran and slid everywhere, chasing never-to-be-caught birds, squirrels, deer and whatever else he could steer his nose to.

By the time Ken got to camp, his four-legged little trooper was pooped—completely! Ken took off his own backpack, set up his tent, and began to relax when he heard a whine. Poor Ralph! There he stood with his doggie backpack saddled onto his back, unable to move. His deeply concerned master gently lifted off the pack and his one-foot tall round pal toppled over sideways like a tree that had just been felled. TIMBERRRRR!!!! And there he lay until the next morning when Ken had to wake him up!

Ralph the Square Dog (cont.)

The Beginning of Dogs

Dogs are great, aren't they? Man's best friend they say.

Think about how amazing they are for a minute. There are big ones like Saint Bernards, little ones like poodles that you can hold in your lap, and everything in-between. There are over 300 breeds—amazing variations that God made possible.

All Dogs From One Code

Now I want to tell you something extremely important. Did you know that all dogs came from one dog kind? All scientists believe this. At one time there was basically one generic kind of dog—Mom and Dad dog—and all the varieties came out of their genes. The significance of this is incredible.

When God created the first two dogs, *they had on their DNA the directions for all the types of dogs; all the hair patterns and all their skeletal, and organ differences.*



This is amazing. It's like a having a little car-ball the size of a dust particle that can make itself into a car—but not just one car. It can make an Accord, a SUV, or a dump truck—and a couple hundred more varieties—with all the different length wires (*nerves*), engines (hearts) and onboard computers (brains), body designs, (muscle and hair patterns), and interiors (organs).

And all are just the right size and connected to everything else just right! Wow! What a car-ball that would be!

Way Beyond Possible For Chance

Dogs are a million times more complex than a car. Yet, all the varieties came out of *one* set of DNA genes smaller than a dust particle.

Ralph the Square Dog (cont.)

All the varieties of dogs have come out of that original DNA strand in the last 4000 years or so. The information for bloodhounds and a mastiffs didn't come about by "different genetic trees" *All the information for both dogs was already there on the DNA—it just wasn't isolated and activated.*

All the needs for all the vast array of dogs was already present on just *one* single set of DNA all put there by the God of infinite intellect.

That's astonishing! Beyond belief!

Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

Psalms 147:5

Know this is true of your God. Let His infinite intelligence guide the course of your life.

Tell how you think that God could code for so many different kinds of dogs on one set of DNA.

(Ask for help if you need it.)

List also 5 situations where you have seen that God's plans were smarter than your plans.

Little Dancers and God

Fill in the blank: "I hope in the Lord that _____." **Philippians 2:19**

One of the astonishing things about the Creator of Time and Space and all that lies within them is that He thinks. He thinks about many things... and He thinks about you...a lot. And, He also has a deep affection for you. This isn't a nice thought or a myth...it is validated by what we see every day.

A Dance Recital

I watched one very beautiful and so precious granddaughter be part a Christian dance group's rendition of Scrooge. It was amazing to see all the hundred-plus kids dancing out the story with so many different styles from ballet to hip-hop.

As a science grandpa, I tend to see things from a slightly different angle sometimes.



While I watched the show, I thought of what an astonishing gift children and grandchildren are. God makes them from a dust-sized code and they are so beautiful, so handsome, so delightful and so incredibly much fun. Could you or I create a moving, breathing, laughing, running child? Hardly! Only the infinite Creator's self-actuated dust particle can build the other-universe complex body...and only this One can make a sooo beloved living soul.

Adopted and Benefits

The God who gave us this existence doesn't just think about us and care for us. He so clearly reveals His true heart when He states in His utterly profound Word that He wants to adopt us to be His own children, to be our Father. This is beyond-belief for any thinking person.

The hope-verse at the top of this article is from probably the closest person to God to ever live. It shows a very wonderful aspect of the Fatherhood of God. Paul isn't standing in strong faith...he's saying, "I really desire this...It's my wish before God... my heart-felt desire."

Little Dancers and God (cont.)

Let Your REQUESTS Be known to God

Have you noticed that Philippians 4:7 says “*Let your REQUESTS be known to God*”? It doesn’t say, “Force yourself to believe something and you shall have it.” It just says, “Do you deeply desire some things? Let God know these requests.”

It’s a picture of the beautiful childlikeness God wants us to have toward Him as our forever Father. He says, “Let Me know your heart. I will answer as is best. Trust me in this. But come with your needs and your desires and talk with Me.”



The Funniest Story in the Bible

In Acts 12 we see this in one of the funniest situations in all of Scripture.

A tiny group of beloved believers, little people like us, prayed their desire, “Please God, free Peter from prison.” Were they strong in faith? Nope. Not a bit.

Peter was guarded by 16 Roman soldiers (v.4). He was visited by an angel and whacked by him and awakened. (Rise and shine!) The chains fell off his wrists and he was led by the angels past all the guards who were fast asleep. Even at the iron gate

of the city Peter wondered if he was dreaming all this up. Nope. It was real to the T. The gate auto-opened. He exited & the angel disappeared.

Peter walked through the darkened streets and eventually found himself at the outer gate of the tiny home where the kinda pathetic group was praying for him. He knocked on the gate.

A Bunch of Puny Faith-ers

Eventually Rhoda went to the gate and recognized his voice. She was so astonished that she didn’t open it, but instead ran in to tell the group. These strong-in-faith-warriors-for-Christ told her she lost her mind. (Check it out...it actually says exactly this. V. 15) Crazy... Meanwhile Peter is still outside knocking away.

The whole scenario is hysterical. God answered a prayer in such an astonishing way that everyone, including Peter, thought it was all nuts. But it wasn’t. It was the greatest Reality affecting the tiny reality we all live in.

Little Dancers and God (cont.)

A Fish Potluck Too?

Eventually the mighty ones for God go outside to the gate of the primitive house and are completely blown-away. They undoubtedly had one wild worship session... and—I'm sure—a great fish soup potluck following. Mmmmm.

Rejoice that this playful God...the God of laughter, camel faces, wagging pups, cute roly-pollies and goofy arrogant aristocratic cats, is the Father who watches over you. Lighten up a bit. Enjoy bringing Him your requests and let Him pull some things off so wonderful and so miraculous that you think you are dreaming.



Patience, Patience, Patience

And don't be impatient. God often makes us wait.. and—like for all of us—it's probably a bit torturous to wait...But, hang in there. Trust in the beauty of your God. His waits are massively worth it. This is when the “exceeding abundantly beyond all you can think” kicks in.

“For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, Nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him.”—Isaiah 64:4
Wow!

Apply this to you!

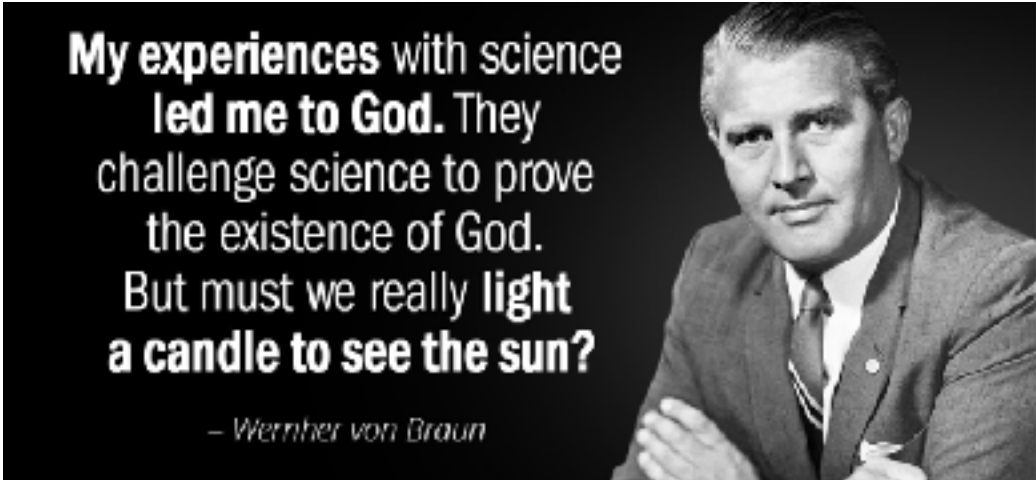
Samuel Morse

(1791-1872) Pioneer of the telegraph

When the first telegraph message was sent in 1844, it said, "What hath God wrought!". Samuel Morse said something similar:

"It is HIS work... 'Not unto us, O Lord, but to Thy Name, be all the praise.'

The nearer I approach to the end of my pilgrimage... the grandeur and sublimity of God's remedy for fallen man are more appreciated."



Warner Von Braun was in charge of NASA for 10 years. He is responsible for the Apollo Moon Rockets—the HUGE Saturn 5—and landed the first men on the moon with Apollo 11.

Write a few sentences about both quotes and what they mean to you, or chose one that is the most meaningful to you and explain why.

Temperance and a Dairy

“...temperate, faithful in all things.”

I Timothy 3:11

A Great Idea!

Having fun is great. But have you ever been having so much fun that you took it too far and got yourself into trouble? I have, especially one unforgettable day.

Unusually hard rains had caused our local California “river” to swell from its normal 6-foot-wide 6-inch depth to over 100 feet and 10 feet deep! Amazing!

The stormy weather abruptly ended and was followed by sunny 80 degree days. (Only in S. Cali!) Passing the river as I drove home from work, I got inspired. Why not float it?

Great idea! I called a few friends and set it up for the next day.



The next morning was beautiful. We drove to a local gas station and inflated six giant-sized inner tubes. We found the push-off point, passed out the tubes and took off.

Oh, it was nice! Balmy weather, some good friends, a huge bag of snacks, deep blue skies and a nice river ride. In dry San Diego County, too. Amazing again!

Too Much Fun

For an hour, we lazily floated down the calm, reed-and-willow lined waters. It was even better than I had imagined. Then we came to a trail on the south side of the river. “Should we get out?” shouted a friend.

“Nah,” I yelled back, “Head down past the bridge. There's another trail down there. We might as well enjoy the ride for all it's worth!”

Famous last words.

Temperance and a Dairy (cont.)

Whoops!

The next thirty minutes were nice, but a little tense. I thought there was another way off the river, but all the vegetation on both sides had grown thick—really thick. After passing under the eighty-foot tall old concrete bridge over the canyon and continuing another half-mile, I finally saw an opening. “Head for the side!” I signaled as I pointed to a barely visible trail on the south side of the river.

Everyone eagerly complied—they were more worried than I was about finding a take-out point. Once on shore, we grabbed our tubes and pushed our way through the too-narrow path single file. It was slippery and scratchy, but no one cared—we were happy just to be on our way.

Everything went according to plan the first hundred feet. Then we broke through the vegetation to a smooth stretch where the only barrier between us and the road was barren dirt for 200 feet. After a brief walk, we’d be back to the van and quickly home for a nice warm shower. Great!...ehhh...maybe not.... :(

Muck City



My first step in the “field” was disastrous. My foot sank in a foot and a half! I pulled it out with a great sucking wheeze and an awful putrid odor. “Oh no,” I groaned, “It’s the old dairy.” I had forgotten all about it.

Before us stretched not just a field but a field that had been home to hundreds of dairy cows for decades. To make matters worse, it had been watered and softened substantially by the weeks of rain. The anaerobic bacteria had taken over— and boy did it stink!

We were stuck. There was no other way to the road except to trudge through the stinking muck.

By the time we reached the other side, everyone was slimed from the knees down. We tried cleaning off with our towels, but without water there was no way of removing the muck’s residue. I heard my share of *I wish we’d quit sooner’s* as I drove home. Needless to say, I wasn’t everyone’s favorite friend.

Temperance and a Dairy (cont.)

After a good shower and week or so had passed, vengeance faded from everyone's mind and we all had a good laugh. As I thought about the whole experience, I learned a new angle on I Timothy 3:11 "...*be temperate, faithful in all things.*"

The word temperate means "a state of mind which is free from the excessive influence of passion, lust or emotion." It refers to a person who places voluntary limitations on his freedom—the opposite of what I did. God gave us a beautiful time floating down the river, but then I stretched it too far and caused unnecessary problems—stinky ones at that!

Having fun is not the only area where we can over do it. We can excess in work, too. Overdoing it in any area isn't good. God's way is found in the place of perfect balance.

Mary: A Good Choice

Luke 10:38- 42 tells the famous story of two sisters who invited Jesus into their home. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, enjoying Him and learning important lessons that He desired to teach her. Martha, on the other hand, was caught up in all her ideas of what needed to be done.



Martha's passion to have all the externals just right caused her to miss spending time with the One who mattered more than everything on earth. She was worried about many things that were her ideas of what needed to be done. But her have-to list was actually causing her to miss a profound time with Jesus that God had intended for her that day.

Jesus loved Martha. She was a good worker and a blessing often. She just needed more balance that morning. He corrected her over-busyness by words that are important not to forget; "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good part..." (Luke 10:41,42)

Temperance and a Dairy (cont.)

Chose God’s Good for a Day

Make every effort to catch the “one thing necessary” and to “choose the good part” in your decisions. The one thing necessary is to please God. Mary did it right that time, by spending time with Jesus.

God’s ways are full of peace and also include ample time for concern, sensitivity, love for others and time with God. There are times for diligent work, but life must be lived in balance. Martha totally missed the boat that morning.

So don’t go into excess in either play or work... you just might end up stuck in the muck! 😊

***“Have you found honey (or a blessing or an opportunity)?
Eat only what you need, lest you have it in excess and vomit it.”***

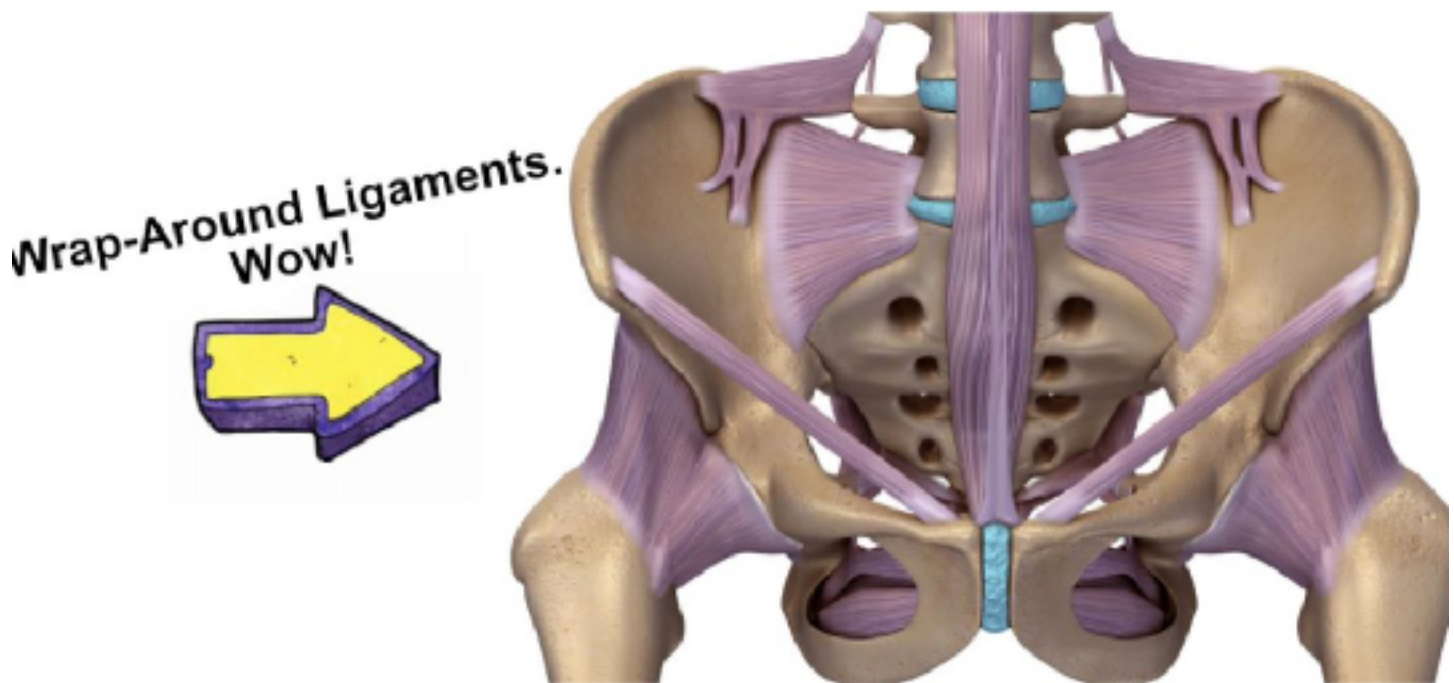
Proverbs 25:16
Pretty applicable

List five times you were excessive and the problems that resulted.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple horizontal red dashed lines.

HIP TIES

Below is one BIG reason why you can walk and run and play and not be in continual excruciating pain. This illustration awes me. It brings tears to my eyes when I'm thinking; "Oh God, You know me. I can completely rest in Your love, knowledge and power."



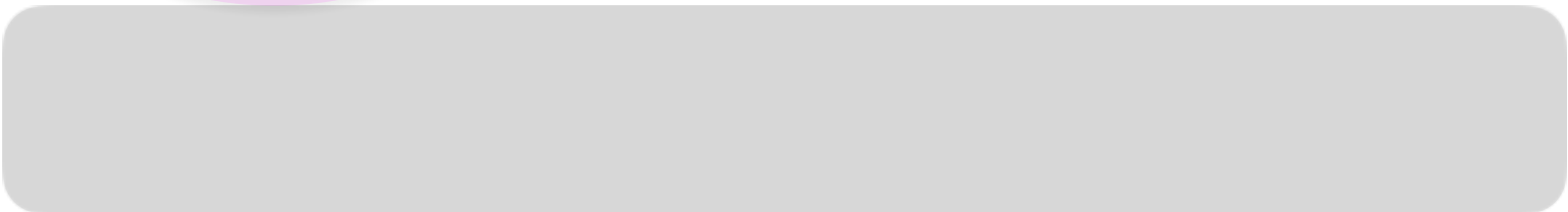
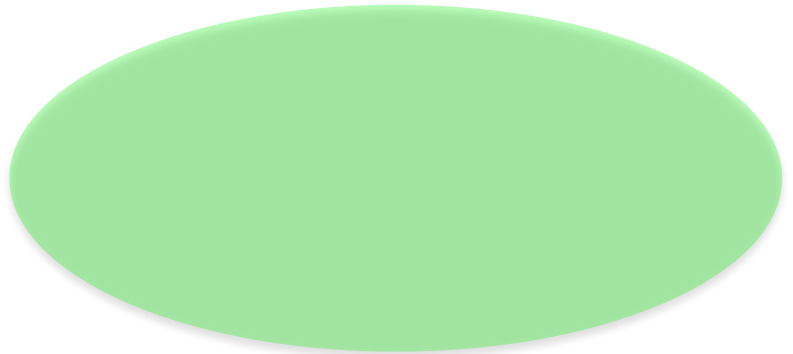
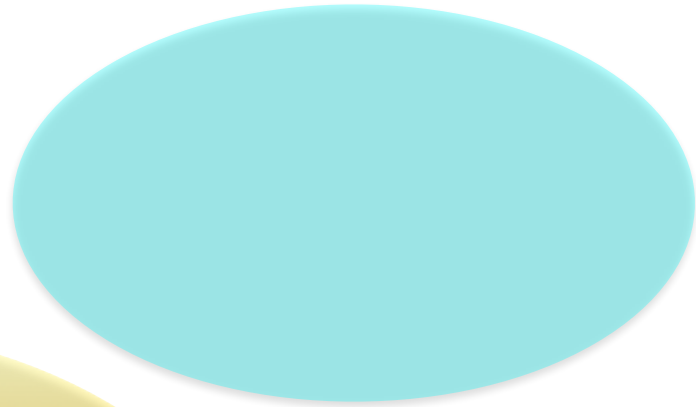
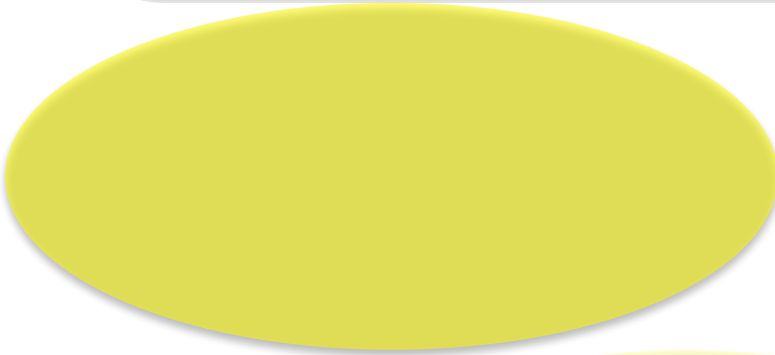
There are two thin ligaments attached to the outside of the "wings" (ilium) of your pelvis that anchor in the floor of your pelvis. There is also a strap anchoring in the same place running down the inside of your huge lumbar vertebrae.

There are also two fan-shaped ligaments coming off your lowest lumbar vertebra that look like a double-sided axe. Just above these there are two more very strangely-shaped ligaments anchored with very strange branching ligaments...You you see these? Crazy, huh?

We're soooo wonderfully made. The gifting of God to bless us in our bodies alone is staggering. The more you know, the more you are shocked at His love and care of us.

List 6 groups of things that God engineered about different areas of your life to show His love . List ten things in each group. For instance your body and food would be two groups.

Be creative in expressing how God had to think of each detail.



We hope and pray that the Lord has blessed you as you've gone through the Devotionals. Be sure to check out our other free resource Mighty Feathers and our VERY exciting one-year CrossWired Science program with hundreds of experiments, videos—and so much more.

Mighty Feathers

This is an amazing, FREE one-month look at the Deep Science of Birds. It comes with videos, quizzes, devotions and experiments.

“This is the best free Science resource I have seen in my ten years of reviewing for Old Schoolhouse magazine.”

Renita Bentz, Mom of 8.

CrossWired Science 1-Year Program!

The whole purpose of Crosswired Science is to show the glory of God through the things He has made. Check it out! It's a completely automated program with videos, quizzes, devotionals, experiments, 230 pages of Printables and much more!

“Like any parent, I want what's best for my children - and CrossWired Science is the best. My children now grasp deep science concepts well beyond their grade level and they are developing a love for science that I'm convinced will carry them through their education and their lives.”

Anique Mautner, Mom of 2, MS Oxford.

