

"If I Could Go Back"

by Sis. Gale G. Smith
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If I could go back and live my life again,
I would run twice as fast as the wind.
No putting off until tomorrow
what can be done today,
No sleeping late on the weekend;
no laziness I pray.
All my friends and family would hear
"I love you," more.
Good deeds, thoughtful words,
Bible reading more than before.
God has given us time on earth
and only He knows for how long.
Oh! Help me Lord to be willing,
vigilant, ready and strong.
Give me Lord all I need

to be a witness for Thee.
While I'm living this life,
be all that I can be.
Tomorrow may be filled
with regret and tears.
Things I didn't say or do
while living all my years.
May I find mercy, peace and
grace Lord while living here below.
Anticipating your glorious coming
and our new home where
milk and honey flow.

In later years I've come to realize
the urgency to do all I can, while I can.
Knowing that God chose me to be His

child before the foundation of the world.
Nothing can I do to gain eternal Salva-
tion, but wanting to be a willing vessel for
God to use while He allows me to live on
this earth. May we all be anxious to be
an obedient servant until the Lord Jesus
returns and carries us to our new home
in heaven.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do
it with thy might; for there is no work,
nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom,
in the grave, whither thou goest."

Ecclesiastes 9:10

To Young Christians

New Testament Readings

The Conversion of St. Paul—Acts 9:1-19.

Paul's Story of His Own Life—Acts 22:1-21.

Paul Saved from Shipwreck—Acts 27:27-44.

God Cares for His Own—Romans 8:31-39.

Paul Describes a Christian Man—Romans 12.

Everyone Has a Place—I Corinthians 12:14-27.

The Greatest Thing in the World—I Cor. 13.

Christian Courage—II Corinthians 4:7-18.

Triumph over Death—I Corinthians 15:53-58.

Sowing and Reaping—Galatians 6:1-8

One in Christ Jesus—Ephesians 2:13-22.

Growing Up—Ephesians 4:11-16.

Learning Christ—Ephesians 4:20-32.

The Whole Armor of God—Ephesians 6:10-18.

Christian Joy—Philippians 4:4-7.

Christian Graces—Colossians 3:12-17.

Advice to a Young Man—I Timothy 4:12-16.

A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ—II Tim. 2:1-13.

Paul's Last Words—II Timothy 4:6-8.

Heroes of Faith—Hebrews 11.

Guarding the Tongue—James 3:1-12.

Christian Addition—II Peter 1:1-11.

Love and God—I John 4.

Out of Great Tribulation—Revelation 7:9-17.

The Heavenly City—Revelation 21:1-5; 22-27.

The End of Darkness—Revelation 22:1-6.

Subtle Reflections - The Humility of Ehud

by Sis. Macy Leach
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Recently, my husband and I have been reading through the book of Judges. Neither of us had ever read through it or known what all it contains. Typically, when we think of the book of Judges, we think about Samson and Delilah (his strength and her betrayal). However, there is so much more to it than that. The majority of Judges shows God's judgment, mercy, long-suffering, and forgiveness for His children. These things are shown in the personal life of Samson, but there are many other parts of history that we do not usually see that also portray the same traits and more.

We were amazed at how the children of Israel repeatedly forsook God to worship other gods; then, He would forsake them; but when they cried out to Him to send them a deliverer, He sent someone who fought for them. One record that stood out to us was about Ehud in Judges 3:12-30. God had already delivered them from Chushanrishathaim of Mesopotamia, but "The Children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord. And he gathered them unto the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees. So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years." They were in bondage because of forsaking God, **BUT** when they cried unto the Lord, He eventually raised them up a deliverer whose name was Ehud. The children of Israel

sent a present to Eglon by him, and Ehud made a two-edged dagger, then hid it under his clothes. When he went to Eglon, he gave him the present, and then told him he had a secret errand unto him. The king sent all but Ehud out from the room. Ehud said to him, "I have a message from God unto thee. And he arose out of his seat." Ehud took the dagger and thrust it into his belly; and the haft (which is the handle) went in after the blade. Eglon, the king of Moab, died, and Ehud escaped.

There are many details God gave us in this story that I did not mention. For example, Ehud was left-handed and hid the dagger on his right thigh. It also points out that Eglon was a very fat man, and tells us that he was sitting in a summer parlour when Ehud went to him. We usually read these things in passing, but please remember that every little detail is important. God has a purpose for them, and they may contain a lesson from which we can learn. These details made the story more interesting for us, and even as I have written this article, I have noticed more. I encourage you to go back and read the whole passage and pinpoint the details that stand out to you.

The biggest detail that stood out to us and made this history so beautiful is found in verses 27-28: "And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them. And he said unto them, Follow after me: for the Lord hath delivered your enemies the Moabites

into your hand..." What great humility Ehud showed! He went to Eglon and killed him, snuck past the parlour door, escaped unnoticed, and then didn't even tell the children of Israel what he did. If that had been me, I might have said something like, "I killed the king, escaped, and delivered your enemies into your hand!" And then, as if with resistance, I might add, "God helped me to do it." As if to say that I did all the work, but oh yeah...God helped, too. Not Ehud; he gave no credit to himself! He did not boast, or uplift himself. He did not claim to have done it all, or anything. He simply said, "The Lord hath delivered your enemies...into your hand...." It is amazing how this beautiful story so often goes unnoticed, yet it contains one of the greatest lessons that we, as children of God, need to know. WE need to learn to be humble!

Proverbs 29:23 "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit."

Matthew 23:12 "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

James 4:6 "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

(Please take time to reflect and meditate on these things.)

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