

Quotes To Consider

"Calvary means "the place of a skull" and that is where our Lord is always crucified, in the culture and intellect of men." Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

"I argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church....that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroads so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and Latin and in Greek; at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died. And that is what he died about...that is where churchmen should be and what churchmen should be about." George MacLeod

A good sermon helps people in different ways; some rise from it strengthened, others wake from it refreshed. Anonymous

We'll get more from the sermon if we learn the knack of listening like a Christian instead of a critic. Anonymous

"We are going to meet unmerciful good people and unmerciful bad people, unmerciful institutions, unmerciful organizations, and we shall have to go through the discipline of being merciful to the merciless."

- Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

"The great idea is not that we are at work for God, but that He is at work in us ... that He is working out a strong family likeness to His Son in us."

- Oswald Chambers

"Time is a threefold present; the present as we experience it, the past as a present memory, and the future as a present expectation."

- Saint Augustine of Hippo

The present is the period when the future pauses for a short while before becoming the past. Anonymous

"Our continual mistake is that we do not concentrate upon the present day, the actual hour, of our life; we live in the past or in the future; we are continually

expecting the coming of some special hour when our life shall unfold itself in its full significance. And we do not observe that life is flowing like water through our fingers, sifting like precious grain from a loosely fastened bag.”

- Father Ylechaninov

“Christianity isn't all that complicated, its Jesus.” Joni Eareckson Tada

“We read not that Christ ever exercised force but once, and that was to drive profane ones out of His temple, not to force them in.” John Milton

Forgiveness

(an excerpt from Marianne Williamson's book A Return to Love)

It's easy to forgive people who have never done anything to make us angry. People who do make us angry, however, are our most important teachers. They indicate the limits to our capacity for forgiveness. “Holding grievances is an attack on God's plan for salvation/” The decision to let go our grievances against other people is the decision to see ourselves as we truly are, because any darkness we let blind us to another's perfection also blinds us to our own.

It can be very hard to let go of your perception of someone's guilt when you know that by every standard of ethics, morality or integrity, you're right to find fault with them. But the Course asks, “Do you prefer that you be right or happy?” If you're judging a brother, you're wrong even if you're right. There have been times when I have had a very hard time giving up my judgment of someone, mentally protesting, “But I'm right.” I felt as though giving up my judgment amounted to condoning their behavior. I felt, “Well somebody's got to uphold principle in this world. If we just forgive things all the time, then all standards of excellence will disintegrate!”

But God doesn't need us to police the universe. Shaking our finger at someone doesn't help them change. If anything, our perception of someone's guilt only keeps them stuck in it. When we are shaking a finger at someone, figuratively or literally, we are not more apt to correct their wrongful behavior. Treating someone with compassion and forgiveness is much more likely to elicit a healed response. People are less likely to be defensive, and more likely to be open to correction. Most of us are aware on some level when we're off.

Forgiveness is the choice to see people as they are now. When we are angry at people, we are angry because of something they said or did before this moment. But what people said or did is not who they are. Relationships are reborn as we let go perceptions of our brother's past. By bringing the past into the present, we create a future just like the past. By letting the past go, we make room for miracles.

When people behave un-lovingly, they have forgotten who they are. They have fallen asleep to the Christ within them.

Change My Heart

When I find myself being caught up by the desire to acquire,
Change my heart, O God.
When I feel disappointed in people in my family or at work,
change my heart, O God
When unreal expectations send me spiraling into dark depression,
Change my heart, O God.
When I hesitate to do those acts of kindness so pleasing to you,
change my heart, O God.
When I cling to the need to have my way in every situation,
change my heart, O God.
When I give in to the temptation to compare myself to others,
change my heart, O God.
For it's only through your forgiveness,
and with a heart renewed by your hand,
that I can know contentment.

Loving-kindness

Each loving act says loud and clear,
"I love you, God loves you. I care. God cares."

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, for God is love. I John 4:7-8

- A warm from the oven casserole taken to the home of a sick friend....

- A bouquet of flowers from your garden given to a neighbor.
- A thank you note sent to the performers who did such an excellent job during a concert or play you attended.
- A loaf of freshly baked cinnamon bread brought to the office for coffee break.
- A box of cookies taken to the police station on Christmas day to encourage those who are “on duty” during the holiday.
- A call to ask with genuine care and concern, “How are you doing?”

We may not think of these as acts of Christian witnessing, yet they are. Every act of loving-kindness reflects God’s loving-kindness for His people. We give because Jesus Christ has so freely given His love to us. He is the example we follow.

Never dismiss an act of loving-kindness as being too small or inconsequential. God will magnify even our smallest deeds to reveal His love to others.

Two Perspectives!

Our days are identical suitcases—all the same size—but some people can pack more into them than others.

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise; making the most of every opportunity.”

- Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV

Mary Smith went to church one Sunday morning and winced when she heard the organist miss a note during the processional. She noted a teenager talking while everybody was supposed to be in prayer. She also couldn’t help but notice that several blooms in the altar bouquets were wilted. She felt the usher was scrutinizing what every person was putting into the offering plate, which made her angry. She counted at least five grammatical errors made by the preacher in his sermon. As she left the church through the side door after the closing hymn, she thought, “what a careless group of people!”

Amy Jones went to church one Sunday morning and was thrilled at the arrangement she heard of "A Mighty Fortress". Her heart was touched at hearing a teenager read the morning Scripture lesson. She was encouraged to see the church take up an offering to help hungry children in Nigeria. The preacher's sermon answered a question that had bothered her for some time. She felt radiant joy from the choir members during the recessional. She left the church thinking, "what a wonder place to worship God!"

Mary and Amy went to the same church, on the same Sunday morning.

Extraordinary Uses For Ordinary Things

(a Readers Digest book)

Pencil Erasers

- Shine your coins. If you've just inherited a rather grimy coin collection from your uncle but you'd like to see it with more luster, try an eraser to shine up the coins. But don't do this to rare and valuable coins.....you can erase their value along with their surface patina.
- Store pins or drill bits. A box is not the most handy place to keep sewing pins. What if the box spills? What if you have a hard time grabbing just one when you're laying out pattern pieces? Here's the solution: Stick pins in an eraser. They won't fall out and it's easy to grab the ones you need. This is also a good tip if you're storing several small drill bits.
- Clean off crayon marks. Your toddler has gone wild with the crayons...but he drew on the walls and not on paper. You've tried everything to get it off, but not this...an eraser. Try erasing the crayon marks to get the wall back to a clean slate.
- Remove scuff marks on vinyl floors. Those new shoes of your husband's have left black streak marks all over the kitchen floor. An eraser will take them off in no time.
- Clean your piano keys. Whether it's a baby grand piano that fills the corner of the living room, a more conventional upright, or just a fold away electronic keyboard, cleaning the keys can be a nightmare project of dust and finger marks. And when you clean it, it's hard to reach some spots to remove dirt. The sides of the black keys are especially difficult to clean. Find an eraser that fits between the ivories and the black keys and you'll have 86'd the dirt on the 88s. This works well whether you have a piano with real ivory keys or the more common plastic ones.

- Cushion picture frames. Don't you hate it when that heavy mirror or picture frame gets slightly crooked? Tired of worrying about the black marks and scrapes the frame is making on the wall? Glue erasers to the bottom corners of the frame. The pictures will now hang straighter and no leave their mark.
- Remove residue from stick on labels. That gray gummy substance on the new picture frame you just purchased is a sight to behold and not coming off with plain soap and water. Rub the residue with an eraser and watch the stuff just peel away.

In The Kitchen

Some recipes for desserts and cookies

Banana Split Sundae Cookies

1 cup (2 sticks) margarine, softened
 1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
 1½ cups ripe bananas, mashed
 (about 4 medium)
 2 eggs
 2 tsp vanilla
 2 cups all purpose flour

2 ½ cups oats, quick or old
 fashioned, uncooked
 1 tsp baking soda
 ¼ tsp salt (optional)
 1 cup semi sweet chocolate pieces
 Ice Cream
 Ice cream topping

Directions:

Heat oven to 350°. Beat margarine and sugar together until creamy. Add bananas, eggs and vanilla, beat well. Add combined oats, flour, baking soda, salt and chocolate pieces; mix well. Drop by ¼ cupfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet about 3 inches apart. Spread dough into 3 ½ inch diameter circles. Bake 14-15 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Cool cookies 1 minute on cookie sheet; remove to wire rack. Cool completely. Store loosely covered at room temperature; place on small plate, top with ice cream and strawberry (or your choice) ice cream topping, jam or preserves to make the cookie sundae.

Yield: makes about 2 dozen

S'more Sandwich Cookies

¾ cup butter or margarine, softened	½ tsp baking soda
½ cup sugar	¼ tsp salt
½ cup packed brown sugar	1/8 tsp ground cinnamon
1 egg	2 cups (12 oz) semisweet chocolate chips
2 tbsp milk	24-28 large marshmallows
1 tsp vanilla extract	
1 ¼ cups all purpose flour	
1 ¼ cups graham cracker crumbs (about 20 squares)	

Directions:

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugars together. Beat in egg, milk and vanilla. Combine the flour, graham cracker crumbs, baking soda, salt and cinnamon; gradually add to creamed mixture. Stir in chocolate chips.

Drop by tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 375° for 8-10 min or until golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Place four cookies bottom side up on a microwave safe plate, top each with a marshmallow. Microwave, uncovered, on high for 16-20 seconds or until marshmallows begin to puff (do not overcook) Top each with another cookie. Repeat. Yield about 2 dozen.

(Note: this recipe was tested using an 850 watt microwave. So adjustments may have to be made if yours is something different)

Strawberry Jam Bars

½ cup butter or margarine, softened	1 package (18 ¼ oz) white cake mix
½ cup packed brown sugar	1 cup finely crushed cornflakes
1 egg	1 cup strawberry jam or preserves

Directions:

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and brown sugar until smooth. Add egg; mix well. Gradually add dry cake mix and cornflakes. Set aside 1 ½ cups for topping. Press remaining dough into a greased 13 x 9 x 2 in baking pan. Carefully spread jam over crust. Sprinkle with reserved dough, gently press down. Bake at 350° for 30 min or until golden brown. Cool completely on a wire rack. Cut into bars. Yields 2 dozen

Note....you can use whatever flavor jam or preserves you prefer...most of them will be delicious in this recipe.

Marbled Orange Fudge

1 ½ tsp plus ¾ cup butter (no substitutes), divided
3 cups sugar
¾ cup whipping cream
1 package (10-12 oz) vanilla or white chips
1 jar (7 oz) marshmallow crème
3 tsp orange extract
12 drops yellow food coloring
5 drops red food coloring

Directions:

Grease a 13 x 9 x 2 in pan with 1 ½ teaspoons butter. In a heavy saucepan, combine the sugar, cream and remaining butter. Cook and stir over low heat until sugar is dissolved. Bring to a boil and cook and stir for 4 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in chips and marshmallow crème until smooth.

Remove 1 cup and set aside. Add orange extract and food colorings to remaining mixture; stir until blended. Pour into prepared pan, drop the reserved marshmallow mixture by tablespoonfuls over top; cut through mixture with a knife to swirl. Cover and refrigerate until set. Cut into squares. Yield: about 2 1/2 pounds.

Filled Chocolate Cupcakes

Batter:

3 cups all purpose flour
2 cups sugar
2/3 cup Cocoa
2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
2 cups water
2/3 cup vegetable oil
2 tbsp white vinegar
2 tsp vanilla extract

Filling:

3 cups all purpose flour
2 cups sugar
2/3 cup cocoa
2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
2 cups water
2/3 cup vegetable oil
2 tbsp white vinegar
2 tsp vanilla extract

Directions:

To prepare filling, in small bowl, beat cream cheese, sugar, egg and salt until smooth and creamy. Stir in coconut and chocolate chips; set aside. Preheat oven to 350°. To prepare batter, in large bowl, stir together flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Add water, oil, vinegar and vanilla; beat on medium

speed for 2 minutes. Fill paper or foil lined muffin tins 2/3 full with chocolate batter. Spoon 1 tablespoon filling into the center of each cupcake. Lightly sprinkle each cupcake with additional coconut. Bake 20-25 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in cake portion comes out clean. Cool completely. Yield 1 1/2 dozen

Chocolate Cherry variation. Prepare filling as directed above, but eliminate coconut. Add 3/4 cup cherry pie filling to filling mixture. Add 1/2 teaspoon almond extract to filling, if desired. To serve, spoon remaining pie filling over baked cupcakes.

Preparation Tip. These moist, chocolate cupcakes can be made with a variety of fillings. For a change of pace, eliminate the coconut from the filling and add 1/2-1 cups Reese's Peanut butter Chips. Also, use food coloring to tint filling for a festive flair.

TWINKIE TRIVIA!!!

For years we all loved the Twinkies...and this past year Hostess stopped making them...I guess probably sold the franchise to someone, I don't recall...but there were a lot of them consumed over the years. In one of Joey Greens books I ran across some Twinkie trivia...so will share it just for fun!!

In 1930, during the Depression, Jimmy Dewar, manager of the Schiller Park Bakery near Chicago, saw a need for a new, low priced product. Since pans used only during the six week strawberry season to make "Little Short Cake Fingers" sat idle for most of the year, Dewar decided to inject the same cakes with a banana cream filling and make them a year round item that he would sell two for a nickel. On a business trip to St Louis, Dewar saw a billboard advertising "Twinkle Toe" shoes, inspiring him to name the new cakes "Twinkies." In the 1940's World War II created a banana shortage, prompting the company to replace the banana cream filling in Twinkies with vanilla cream filling.

- Beginning in 1930, Twinkie inventor Jimmy Dewar ate three Twinkies a day—until the day he died in 1981.
- Interstate Bakeries Corp. Maker of Hostess Twinkies, also makes Wonder Bread.
- Hostess Bakeries Corp can produce up to one thousand Twinkies per minute.

- Americans eat more than five hundred million Twinkies every year.
- In the 1950's Howdy Doody, Buffalo Bob, and a cowhand named Twinkie the Kid praised Twinkies on the children's television show The Howdy Doody show.
- On the Landmark Television series All in the Family, Archie Bunker insisted on having a Twinkie in his lunch box.
- In 1976, authorities in Kings Mill, Ohio, used Twinkies and bananas as bait to capture escaped baboons.
- When San Francisco city supervisor Dan White stood trial for the 1978 murder of Mayor George Moscone and supervisor Harvey Milk, his lawyer insisted that White suffered from a diminished mental capacity because his diet consisted of candy bars and Twinkies.
- In 1980 Continental Baking celebrated the Twinkie's 50th birthday with a ten foot long Twinkie that weighed over a ton and was the equivalent of 332,300 regular Twinkies.
- In 1988, DC Comics celebrated Superman's fiftieth birthday with an eight foot tall cake made from Twinkies.
- Twinkies have appeared in several movies, including Ghostbusters, Grease, Die Hard and Sleepless in Seattle.
- The New York Times named Chicago the Twinkie Capital of the world. Because the average person in Chicago eats more Twinkies than citizens of any other American city.
- By 1997, Lewis Browning, having eaten one Twinkie every day since 1941, had consumed 20,440 Twinkies. He boasted: "Nobody likes Twinkies like I do!"
- In 1999, President Bill Clinton's administration selected the Twinkie as "an object of enduring American symbolism" to be included in the White House millennium time capsule.



An Easy Homemade Candle

Take an orange, a lemon or a grapefruit, cut it in half. Eat the middle portion leaving the center core like stem intact. Pour a kitchen oil, (olive, vegetable etc) into the fruit, up to just below the top of the stem, light the stem...it will burn for hours and smells so good!

In The Garden

Sweet potatoes

by John Scheepers

It seems too good to be true, sweet potatoes those sublime golden orange tubers that we can't get enough of (at least some of us) also happen to be the most nutritious of all vegetables. In fact, according to Center for Science in the Public Interest sweet potatoes are more than twice as nutritious as any other vegetable. High in vitamin C as well as calcium, folate, potassium and beta-carotene. (which the body converts to vitamin A)

Sweet potatoes are also an excellent source of dietary fiber, protein and iron. And though they are sweet, they have half the glycemic load of white potatoes. They are a good carb that our bodies digest slowly, so we feel satisfied far longer than with most other foods.

We have always had a sweet spot for these delicious and incredibly versatile kitchen chameleons that can be enjoyed as a savory or as a sweet. We eat them baked, boiled, pureed, mashed, steamed, grilled, fried and roasted.---now we can enjoy them even more, knowing they are one of the very healthiest of all foods.



Did You Know?

Strange facts regarding plants (also from Joey Green's book)

- Most plant diseases are caused by bacteria, fungi or viruses. Bacteria, single celled microorganisms unable to produce their own food, attack green plants to obtain nutrients, causing bacterial diseases. Fungi, multi-cellular organisms that obtain their food parasitically from green plants and reproduce by releasing spores into the air or water, cause fungal diseases in plants.. Microscopic viruses invade and reproduce in plant tissue, causing abnormal growth, discoloration, or foliage variegation.
- Plant diseases can be spread by an infected shovel, gloves, or gardening shoes. Washing tools, gloves and shoes with warm soapy water kills the diseases.
- Before spraying plants to ward off a disease, add a drop of liquid soap or vegetable oil to the spray solution. Soap or oil breaks the surface tension and helps the liquid stick to plant leaves.
- Cigarette smoke can spread the plant disease tobacco mosaic. Smokers should not smoke in the garden or near plants and should wash their hands before handling plants.

COLORADO'S FIRST SNOWBOARDER?

A near disaster in the High Rockies

They were then known as Norwegian snowshoes in the early days of Colorado history, but we now call them skis. These boards were often twelve feet long and a single pole balanced the skier. They were essential for navigating the deep snows of the mountains. It was in the 1870's that a young Englishman, John Gladwyn Webb, set out one winter to seek his fortune in a search for gold. He had learned to master the skis, and he was doing well until he crossed the summit of one pass and tripped. To his horror, he had lost his vital snowshoes which had slipped loose.

Webb was able to grab one but the other slid down the slope before him leaving only a track in the powder. As the snow was at least ten feet deep there was no possible way to wade out from his isolated spot. He would never be found, and would simply flounder and die there.

In desperation, John placed the remaining ski beneath his body and carefully balanced himself upon it in a crouched position. Guiding with his elbows, he was able to follow the trail of the missing ski, where he located it far down the slope. There he dug it out and was able to go on his way.

The slat is wider now, and it is called snowboarding and is performed in a somewhat upright posture.

Recommended Reading.....

Have been reading some books that were written for men....I am of the opinion that women should read these books too...as men should read some of the books written for women....perhaps it would help them understand each other better?? Anyway, the two I am reading now are Wild at Heart (which I have read before) by John Eldredge and Tender Warrior by Stu Weber.

I find I can learn a great deal about my relationship with my husband and the other men in my life....whether family or friends. Sometimes we don't have a clue as to how the other gender was/is designed by God to feel, think, respond, and what's important to them or why it is. God designed us to be one as husband and wife, and help and support each other...if we don't know what is driving the behavior of one another this can be difficult, if not impossible. So I recommend either of these books ...(and there are others which we will talk about at a later date).....both for men and women.... if you are a man and are interested in learning a bit more about yourself or at least understand Why you feel or act as you do and if you are a woman you can learn to understand your spouse, son, father, brother etc much better.

If you are raising boys, you need to understand some of this also. In society now, I think it's hard for to be men as God intended them to be.... They are often put down and attacked by the feminist movement...and it has hurt not only relationships and marriages, but families and society in general. We jump from one extreme to the other from women being chattel to women trying to take men's place. That is not how God intended it to be, therefore it will not make for successful relationships. The Bible is pretty clear about it....but sometimes reading some of these books can also help. So give them a try!! Will have some more suggestions later on.

An excerpt from Tender Warrior

.....in the introduction

“Ironically, Sam Keen, on the very first page of his best seller notes, “My grandmother gave me a Bible with a note that said: ‘read this every day, big boy – it will make you a real man.” Good advice. Had it been followed, it would have saved Sam a lot of work. Not to mention a lot of grief. So it's back to the Bible, guys. I'm reminded of the ad campaign for the cereal giant Kellogg corp. Seems the company flagship, the venerable Corn Flakes, was dropping in sales. The clever ad beckoned, “Kellogg's Corn Flakes...taste them again for the first time.” In that spirit lets you and I look at manhood from God's perspective. Sure it's been there a long time. But if it's all starting to look like a bowl of soggy corn flakes, maybe we need to taste it again....for the first time.

North, South, East, West...four points on the compass

Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...four seasons in the year

Earth , Wind, fire, Water....four elements on the planet.

King, Warrior, Mentor, Friend...four rhythms in a man.

Four undergirding life rhythms throb in the veins of every male child. They pipe a four part cadence to which every man must march if he chooses to be a complete man. Always intermingled, never exclusive, they provide the primary colors of the masculine rainbow from which all others draw their hue. Blending perfectly with one another they reflect the light of the One in whose image they are made.

An excerpt from Wild at Heart.....

John Eldredge introduces Wild at Heart with among other things these words... “I know. I almost want to apologize. Dear Lord ---do we really need another book for men? Nope, we need something else. We need permission; permission to be what we are—men made in God's image. Permission to live from the heart and not from the list of “should” and “ought to” that has left so many of us tired and bored.

No, men need something else. They need a deeper understanding of why they long for adventures and battles and a Beauty—and why God made them just like that. And they need a deeper understanding of why women

long to be fought for, to be swept up into adventure, and to be the Beauty, for that is how God made them as well.

So I offer this book, not as the seven steps to being a better Christian, but as a safari of the heart to recover a life of freedom, passion and adventure. I believe it will help men get their heart back –and women as well. Moreover, it will help women to understand their men and help them live the life they both want. That is my prayer for you.”

(If these books are not in the church library, they are in the public library)

UNITY (IN DIVERSITY ?)

We have had several lessons from our leadership on Unity in recent weeks. Our class this morning was a very good study on the subject. And as I was looking at a book I have by Anne Ortlund, called “Fix Your Eyes on Jesus.” I read the following and thought it worth sharing.

Anne wrote that one weekend when her husband was preaching at a church not far from where they lived, they decided to go for the weekend and make a mini-vacation...they found that the San Diego Symphony was giving an outdoor concert Sunday pm (after church service) So they decided to go.....” So after Ray preached, we dropped by a cafeteria for some lunch and then headed for the campus. We hauled a blanket from the car and spread it on the grass in the sunshine—along with thousands of others.

Some had just as obviously come from, as we had, from church; the guys peeled off their coats and ties, and the gals kicked off their heels....

Some had just as obviously come from the beach; they had on their cut offs and thongs or their bikinis and bare feet....Some got out their beer bottles....

But when the orchestras began playing, nobody thought any more about how each other looked or what each other did. We were all concentrating beyond ourselves; we were all caught up in the same beauty...(of the music.)

For Christian unity in the midst of Christian variety.....Fix Your Eyes On Jesus! (He is the common denominator for us)

O, Lord, we Christians tend to get confused in the midst of diversity! Like Peter on the Mountain of Transfiguration, we start to build three tabernacles, or more.

“Father, to make my heart broad, keep my vision narrowed. Help me to look up and see no one except Jesus.” (Matthew 17:8)

I would add....and Him crucified.....(and may I see Him in my brothers face!!)

In Jesus Name Amen

Answers To Last Month's Questions

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Stephen Acts 7:60 | 6. Joseph Genesis 44:2 |
| 2. The Ethiopian eunuch Acts 8:36 | 7. Samson Judges 14:3 |
| 3. Joseph Genesis 50:24 | 8. Jonah Jonah 1:9 |
| 4. Jesus Matthew 16:18 | 9. John the Baptist Mark 1:7 |
| 5. Simeon Luke 2:34 | 10. Peter Acts 5:30 |

This month's Bible trivia questions

Multiple Marriages. More easy questions!

1. What King had 700 wives and 300 concubines?
2. Who was the first man in the Bible mentioned as having more than one wife?
3. Who married sisters Rachel and Leah?
4. Who fathered 70 sons by his many wives?
5. Whose father had two wives named Hannah and Peinnah?
6. What hairy man had three wives named Judith, Bashemath, and Mahalath?
7. What early king had two wives named Ahinoam and Rizpah?
8. What woman was married to two of Judah's sons?
9. What new Testament woman had had at least five husbands?

SING AND MAKE MELODY.....

“The Little Brown church in the Vale”

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Exodus 20:8 NKJV

The Little Brown Church in the Vale sits in a beautiful park alongside Highway 218 in the town of Bradford, near Nashua, in northern Iowa. But it wasn't there when the song was written.

A New York native named William Pitts, about twenty seven, was traveling by stagecoach from his home in Wisconsin to Fredericksburg, Iowa, to see his girlfriend. It was a bright afternoon in 1857. When the stagecoach made a pit stop in Bradford, Pitts took a stroll among the trees to stretch his legs. The gently sloping hills formed a slight valley and the Cedar River flowed peacefully by. The grove of trees, it seemed to Pitts, would be the perfect setting for a church.

Unable to erase the scene from his mind, Pitts returned home and composed the words and music to Little Brown Church in the Vale. Nothing came of his song, however, and he filed it away.

Five years later, Pitts, now married to his sweetheart, relocated to Iowa to be near his elderly in-laws and to teach music at Bradford Academy. Imagine his surprise when he saw a church building sitting in the very spot he had previously envisioned it. Christians in the community, growing tired of meeting in abandoned stores, had determined to build a church. The Civil War was raging and times were hard; but by 1862 the building was up. It had to be painted using the cheapest color—which was brown.

When Pitts saw the little brown church in the vale, he rushed home and found “Little Brown Church in the Vale” packed among his papers. He sang his hymn at the building's dedication in 1864. Soon afterward, he sold his manuscript to a publisher in Chicago for \$25. He used the money to enroll in Rush Medical College, and William spent the rest of his life as the town physician in Fredericksburg, Iowa, about fourteen miles from Bradford.

Today the Little Brown Church boasts a membership of about 100, but it's best known for the hundreds of weddings and thousands of tourists who flock there each year to see the church in the valley by the wildwood, the little brown church in the vale.

Little Brown Church in the Vale

words and music by William S. Pitts, 1857

There's a church in the valley by the wildwood,
no lovelier spot in the dale.
No place is so dear to my childhood
as the little brown church in the vale.

There close by the side of the loved one,
to the tree where the wild flowers bloom,
where the farewell hymn will be chanted
I shall rest by her side in the tomb.

How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning,
to list to the clear ringing bell.
Its tones so sweetly are calling,
Oh, come to the church in the vale.



From the church in the valley by the wildwood,
when day fades away into night,
I would fain from this spot of my childhood
wing my way to the mansions of light.

Oh, come, come, come, come,
Come to the church in the wildwood,
Oh, come to the church in the vale .
No spot is so dear to my childhood as the little brown
church in the vale.

Our Nation's Godly Heritage

Some excerpts from a book by Bruce L. Shelley, *The Gospel and the American Dream*

“The Puritans who crossed the Atlantic came to think of themselves as God's new Israel, sent by the Almighty on a special mission into the American wilderness. Governor John Winthrop expressed this vision in his famous sermon aboard the Arbella; “We shall find that the God of Israel is among us when he shall make us a praise and glory... a city upon a hill” and what was that glory? It was to create out of the American wilderness a “holy common

wealth", a biblical society in which the will of God would be done in the state as well as in the church...."

"Few dared to stand and challenge President Woodrow Wilson when he said, "America was born a Christian nation for the purpose of exemplifying to the nations of the world the principles of righteousness found in the Word of God.

To this day, if we try, we can still hear confident voices across America singing O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern impassioned stress a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness! America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw, confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.

This prevalence of the gospel in America's past then, explains the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. Now we know why, when the slavery crisis plunged the nation into its bloodiest conflict, interpreters of the war, including President Lincoln himself, turned to the biblical themes of judgment, suffering, and atonement to explain the nation's tragedy. This bit of history also explains why so many Christians today as ready as any other American to wave the flag and pledge allegiance to one nation under God, feel at times like a thankful but misunderstood minority."

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## Presidential Quotes

"Let not the foundation of our hope rest upon man's wisdom. It will not be sufficient that sectional prejudices find no place in the public deliberations. It will not be sufficient that the rash counsels of human passion are rejected. It must be felt that there is no national security but in the Nation's humble, acknowledged dependency upon God and His over ruling providence....."

- Franklin Pierce, 14<sup>th</sup> President of the U.S.

"I rely on Him who holds in His hands the destinies of nations, to endow me with the requisite strength for the task and to avert from our country the evils apprehended from the heavy calamity which has befallen us....."

- Millard Fillmore, 13<sup>th</sup> President of the U.S.

# A Prayer For Our Nation

Father God in the name of Jesus, I pray that You would direct the leaders of this nation in times of much chaos. Grant them wisdom and understanding, and help them to respond quickly and effectively to each situation. May divinely directed decisions be on their lips, and may they do that which is right in Your sight. May they follow Your will to direct our nation in the paths of peace and safety.

Unite all response agencies in an organized and harmonious fashion to bring quick and effective resolve to the demands of all crisis.

Empower us as U.S. citizens to do our part, financially, physically, emotionally and spiritually to support all who have been affected by the evil in the world.

I pray that You encourage and strengthen our Nation. Surround us with Your love and mercy. Bring peace and comfort to all those who are suffering as a result of the various evil Satan is doing in our nation and world. In Jesus name, Amen

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## July 4th

*Some thoughts From Wallbuilders*

As July 4th comes around again and we do our celebrating in all the traditional ways, let us also think about some of the more serious sides of what we are celebrating.... there are some things we can do which will be interesting and educational too...as well as fun. And will be important for our children to know...and for us to remember.....such as:

Take time to honor God and thank Him for the blessings that we enjoy in this great nation we call home. The blessings of it all come from Him.

Read the Declaration of Independence. (How long has it been, or have you ever read it? Or have your children?) Knowing the reason for our founding is just as important today as it was 237 years ago.

This is a flag waving time of year. Read again the story of Francis Scott Key and the writing of the Star Spangled Banner. When you know the story the words to the song take on a whole new meaning....or Betsy Ross and the sewing of the flag.

Read John Quincy Adams' famous 1837 Fourth of July oration.

Go online at [www.colonialhall.com](http://www.colonialhall.com) (or other places either online or at the library , I think there are some neat videos on you tube also) and learn about some of the founders that you may not be as familiar with as others....or read again about those you are familiar with....are your children familiar with the founders? Look up and read about the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Thank God for all of the many blessings He has provided us over the years, in this land of the Free and the light to the rest of the world, and ask His forgiveness for so often leaving Him out of our celebrations and lives. All good things come from Him and if He is not a part of our lives and recognized and taught to the next generations, many of the freedoms and blessings we have enjoyed for so long may not be there for our next generations.. So be sure to include Him in your celebrations, He likes to be included in all we do.

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## **Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days Of Summer.**

*(A fun song of many years ago)*

That's what July brings to us...summer days, vacation, swimming pools, fishing, bar-b-q, camping etc. etc. etc. May your summer be one of making many happy memories with friends and family.

It also is when we celebrate the birthday of this great land we are privileged to live in. July 4<sup>th</sup>. May we never forget those who sacrificed , both those who served and the families who waited at home...to give us the freedoms that have always been associated with our nation. A nation that was a light to the world and always the care giver....where freedom gave everyone the opportunities they could find no where else. Where God was the foundation of it all and His principles were what it was founded on. As you celebrate this year...however you do it, please stop and remember just what you are celebrating.....we have been a blessed nation....and please pray for our nation, that it may be returned to the God fearing nation it was originally meant to be....the light to the world.

Enjoy and thank God for the blessings of living in this beautiful land He helped establish and may He forgive our trespasses and bring us back to what He intended.

Happy Fourth of July!! Support our troops and our veterans and thank them and their families! Lila