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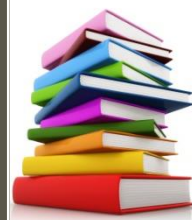
## Biographical Reflections Christian Similitudes Christian Digest



February 2024

A Free Monthly Newsletter for Christian Students

# Today's Readers



## Where Are We Heading To?

In a recent article, I read of a new minister who was asked to teach a boys' class in the absence of their regular Sunday School teacher. He decided to see what they knew, so he asked who knocked down the walls of Jericho. All the boys denied doing it, and the preacher was appalled at their ignorance. At the next deacon's meeting, he told them about his experience with the youths. *"Not one of them knows who knocked down the walls of Jericho."* he lamented. The group was silent until one seasoned veteran of disputes spoke up. *"Preacher, this appears to be bothering you a lot. But I've known all those boys since they were born, and they're good boys. If they said they didn't know, I believe them. Let's just take some money out of the repair and maintenance fund, fix the walls and let it go at that!"*

On different occasions, I spoke to two folks. Both were named Paul, one in his twenties and the other in his sixties. I asked them the same question: "Do you know of Paul in the Bible?" In both instances, the answer was a NO! They both said they'd never heard of Paul, the apostle. Do these stories not reflect the spiritual ignorance people have about God's word in our age?

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## Fanny Crosby

<<< Biographical Reflections

*... blind but saw what those with eyes could not see!*

*"If I had a choice, I would still choose to remain blind...for when I die, the first face I will ever see will be the face of my blessed Saviour."* – **Fanny Crosby.**

Fanny Crosby's story has remained one of the most amazing chronicles of a life well spent for the Lord. Fanny as you might have heard before was either born blind or lost her sight to an eye infection poorly managed due to medical ignorance when she was only six weeks old. Raised by her grandmother following her father's death before her first birthday, as her mother had to be away most times to work for food.

Her education was at the New York Institution for the Blind where she excelled academically in English literature, science, philosophy and music, mastering the piano, organ, harp and guitar. Following her graduation, she was retained the Institution to teach for several years.

She accepted her blindness with a positive attitude and that made a huge difference. At age 8, she wrote her first poetry and echoed her decisive refusal to feel sorry for herself. History had it that she memorized five chapters of Scripture per week and a time came that she could recite the gospels, many psalms and proverbs offhand.

Fanny grew up accomplishing what many who had sight could not achieve with over 9,000 hymns, more than 1,000 Poems, 4 books on poetry, 2 autobiographies, and 5 cantatas to her credit.

She donated proceeds from her writing and speaking to assist immigrants, volunteered as a mission worker and took Christ to the homeless, alcoholics, and fought against

slavery. She was the first woman to speak before the United States Congress, and successfully advocated before the Congress to have school for the blind in every state. Despite her condition, Fanny was happily married! She was busy for God, why would you be idle? She gave 94 resourceful years

to the world. She influenced all the US Presidents of her time. Who are you influencing for God today? Despite her condition, she believed the world needed her, and she left monumental challenges behind. Fanny's life is a story of hope. I hope it reassures and challenges you to know the world needs something latently hidden in you – gifts, talents, and potentials.

## Christian Similitudes >>>

# Strangers and Pilgrims

*In the last edition, we considered the believer as a beautiful jewel. In this quarter's edition, we would look at the believer as "Strangers and Pilgrims" in this world as recorded in 1 Peter 2:11. What does it mean, and why did God use this expression for Christians?*

Some critical questions only the Bible could provide satisfactory answer include, "Where do all human beings come from?" "Why are we in this world?" "Where do people's spirit and soul go after they die?"

I know there are many theories about the origin of man, however, none has been able to provide any superior evidence to the Biblical accounts. We came from Him, and one by one, we shall all return to Him – Eccl. 12:7.

God created all lives, and He required humans whom He created in His image to live for Him and for His glory. Anyone who falls short of His expectation cannot live eternally with Him after death. Anyone who misses heaven will spend eternity with Satan in hell fire. So, to the Christian, this world is like someone who went for shopping. He or she must return home. In order for us to know God and understand how He wants us to live as we pass through this world God gave us His word – THE BIBLE.

In 1 Peter 2:11-17, the Bible outlines seven commands for Christians who see themselves as strangers and pilgrims in the world.

1. Abstain from fleshly lusts – v 11
2. Live honestly before everyone – 12
3. Submit to human civil rulers – 13 -15, 18
4. Don't use your Christian liberty to sin – v16
5. Honor everyone – v17
6. Love fellow Christians – v17
7. Fear God – v17



In the early church, many Jews felt they were only answerable to God. Hence, they rebelled against the constituted Roman authorities.

By divine inspiration, Apostle Peter warned them not to disobey civic rulers to show they were true servants of God.

This same admonition goes for today's Christians as well. We must live as peaceful and obedient citizens of our country, with heaven in view.

**"All successful people are big dreamers. They imagine what their future could be, ideal in every respect, and then they work every day toward their distant vision, that goal or purpose."**  
— Brian Tracy,  
Personal Success

## Christian Digest >>>

### TIPS TO BECOMING A BETTER STUDENT

*When the going gets tough in your studies, rather than looking to change your course or give up on your dreams and goals, you should focus on the things you can control – how you can improve your study habits/skills. Here are five tips for becoming a better student.*

1. Set specific goals you want to achieve in your studies every day.
  - Plan for it, write down what you're going to do to achieve your target, then check it off once you do it.
2. Make an effort to find out more about what those who have succeeded with flying colors in the courses you are taking did to obtain an A grade. You might get what they got if you commit to doing what they did.

For example, you can try the following:

- Familiarize yourself with your teacher/lecturer/professor's expectations from students.
- Get the resources they utilized.
- Ask good questions from your teachers/professors, and practice good listening during classes and discussions.

3. Be intentional about managing your time.
  - Make a note of your time on non-academic issues (social media, TV,

YouTube, etc.) and then reduce those times by half. Then, add the extra time to your study time.

4. Summarize everything you do daily after your regular classes into five. Then, allocate and evaluate the time you spend on each.

- If the time you spend on your studies are not number one on that list, consider what steps you might take to allocate more time to studying.

5. Try counseling.

- Your school counselors may be able to help you. Discuss your situation and ask for ways you could become a better student, moving forward all the time. Be intentional as you work and pray



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