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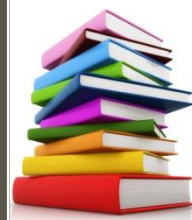
Biographical Reflections
Christian Similitudes
Christian Digest



March 2024

A Free Monthly Newsletter for Christian Students

Today's Readers



This Month ... >>>

GO FORWARD ...

The month of March is a reminder of the command of the Lord to the believer to continue marching forward. As you continue in the year, you must continue in prayer, but don't forget to take necessary actions.

Someone said, "sometimes we know what to do, but we pray for more guidance as an excuse to postpone doing it." So, are there things you know you should do, then this is the time to get moving.

During Moses' time, Pharaoh and his army were at the back, faced with the Red Sea, yet God told them, "GO FORWARD. As they moved, the Red Sea was made dry, and they crossed on dry land, 12 miles wide, and 75 – 100 feet of water formed a wall on both sides as they journeyed through. Irrespective of your challenges, keep marching forward. In the fullness of time, you would look back and see the help of the ever-living God.

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Jim Elliot

<<< *Biographical Reflections*

'Our orders are: the Gospel to every creature.'

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.

— Jim Elliot

Centuries or decades ago, many believers delighted to head for missions. Such were Jim Elliot and his friends. After a series of solitary prayer sessions, Elliot sensed God's call to a foreign field, specifically South America. Interestingly he said, "why should some hear twice, when others have not heard the gospel once?"

His passion brought him in contact with a former missionary who told him about a tribe in South America that had never heard anything about Jesus. In the winter of 1952, Elliot and his friends put their lives on the line as they headed for the South American jungle. They went with a singular goal of making Christ known to the people.

After some years of work among the Quichua and Jivaro Indians, they formulated plans to reach the Aucas tribe. But unfortunately, the Aucas were notoriously wicked and killed any stranger who encroached into their territory.

Historically, the Aucas had killed all strangers for centuries. Yet, Jim and his friends believed no sacrifice was too much to pay for the souls of the unreached tribe.

They came up with their strategy. The plan was to drop gifts from a plane, attempting to befriend the hostile tribe. Their approach had initial success as they gained several friendly contacts.

Finally, they landed on a beach of the Curaray River in eastern Ecuador to further reach the people with Christ's gospel and love.

Unfortunately, Jim and his friends were speared and hacked to death by warriors from the Auca tribe on January 8, 1956.

The death of these five men was not in vain. Eventually, many Aucas accepted Christ as Saviour when Jim's wife, Elisabeth Elliot bravely returned to share the Gospel with those who killed her husband! Today, we read the beautiful stories of such men and women who invested their talents, times, treasures, and lives to bring others to the knowledge of Christ. What will the generation coming after you read about you?

Little Children

In continuation of the series of articles on the believer's similitude, let us look at what the scriptures call the believer in 1 John 2:1, 12.

Is it derogatory to refer to Christians as "little children"? No. The fact remains that we are all children before an ageless Father who lives from eternity to eternity.

Beyond the age factor, God addresses believers as "children" because of the way He sees true believers, and Jesus revealed this during His earthly sojourn.

In Matthew 18:3, Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, **except ye be converted, and become as little children**, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

I assume most Christians would understand what it means to be converted.

To be a Christian and not understand conversion would be like a student admitted into a school who doesn't know what it means to be a student. In simple terms, conversion means a change from being a sinner to be a saint. It is a complete change of life, from one state to another. Old things must pass away for a new life to emerge (2 Corinthians 5:17).

However, it is clear from Christ's word that a genuine conversion goes hand-in-hand with becoming as little children.

Several attributes make "little children pleasing unto God." But can you boldly say these same things that make little children pleasing to God are present in your life?

These questions are not what many Christians love to hear. Nevertheless, the Bible admonishes the believer to examine their lives daily to avoid eternal disappointment at the end of their Christian journey.

I hope you could answer "yes" to all the following questions.



Like the little children:

1. Are you humble?
2. Are you ready to learn?
3. Can you say you are innocent?
4. Do you believe everything God says as little children trust their earthly parents?
5. Do you easily forgive people?
6. Do you depend on God as little children depend on their parents?
7. Do you love others like little children?

Christian Digest >>>

CONCENTRATION TIPS FOR STUDENTS

If you struggle to focus when studying, ask yourself the following questions about each of the seven concentration tips listed below.

1. Study Environment

- a. Is it too hot?
- b. Is it too cold?
- c. Is it too noisy?
- d. Is the lighting inadequate?
- e. Is it uncomfortable?
- f. Does it promote sleep?
- g. Do you keep your phone on during your study time?

2. Personal Schedule

- a. Are you overwhelmed by your schedule?
- b. Are you trying to do too much within a short time?
- c. Do you set unrealistic goals within your schedule?

2. Personal Schedule (cont'd)

- d. Do you find it hard to know the best time of the day when you can profit best from your study?
- e. Are you so overloaded that you are unable to take breaks during your study times?
- f. Are you unable to review your notes within 24-hours of learning?
- g. Do you always feel you need someone to study with you?

3. Sundry Concerns

- a. Are your thoughts wandering while you try to study?
- b. Is it hard to follow a lecture?
- c. Is the instructor speaking too fast?
- d. Do you feel sleepy while trying to concentrate?
- e. Are you dealing with a problematic issue that is hindering you from concentrating?
- f. Do you take plenty of caffeine?
- g. Do you think you are addicted to eating fatty foods and alcohol?

If you answer YES to any of these questions, that could be the reason for your inability to concentrate or focus when studying.

Therefore, you must work at reducing or removing any causes you identify as your deterrents.



P.O. Box 25075
Truro, NS
B2N 7B8

Contact us at readers@rehobothsprings.ca
visit www.rehobothsprings.ca