



All the Way My Savior Leads Me

*All the way my Savior leads me;
 What have I to ask beside?
 Can I doubt His tender mercy,
 Who through life has been my Guide?
 Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
 Here by faith in Him to dwell!
 For I know, whate'er befall me,
 Jesus doeth all things well;
 For I know, whate'er befall me,
 Jesus doeth all things well.*

*All the way my Savior leads me,
 Cheers each winding path I tread,
 Gives me grace for ev'ry trial,
 Feeds me with the living bread;
 Tho' my weary steps may falter,
 And my soul athirst may be,
 Gushing from the Rock before me,
 Lo! A spring of joy I see;
 Gushing from the Rock before me,
 Lo! A spring of joy I see.*

*All the way my Savior leads me,
 O the fullness of His love!
 Perfect rest to me is promised
 In my Father's house above;
 When my spirit, clothed immortal,
 Wings its flight to realms of day,
 This my song thro' endless ages;
 Jesus led me all the way!
 This my song thro' endless ages;
 Jesus led me all the way!*

Words: Fanny J. Crosby
 Music: Robert Lowry



IT'S LIKE WALKING WITH GOD

I have driven significant miles. It's just the nature of my life's pursuits. Sometimes I'm asked how I stay alert on the long stretches, the 600 or 800 mile days. The answer, a little complicated, is this: I look for God around every corner and over ever hill. I keep my eye on the goal, spiritually and physically. I stop every two or three hours and do something to get my heart rate up a little. I keep nuts and water handy, and I do simple mathematics—how far from point A to point B, time and distance, and regularly figure the remaining details. I create small goals to help me reach the big goal.



I can't drive 600 miles all at once. I can only do it an inch at a time, a foot, a yard, a tenth of a mile, a mile, etc. It's like walking with God, one step at a time, one choice at a time, one course correction at a time. There are stops along the way. There are detours, roadblocks, and potholes. It sometimes seems a long journey; but when I get to my destination, all those small steps, inches, miles, and stops will seem very insignificant. In fact, I probably won't remember most of it. You and I know what to do – just stay the course, be attentive, keep our eyes on the way to the final destination, keep moving forward, and hold on. There's still a ways to go.

Chuck Hicks, Searcy, AR



CUCUMBERS OR CORN?

Have you ever heard the expression, "As useless as a scarecrow in a cucumber patch"? The reason the scarecrow is useless is because the crows aren't going to bother the cucumbers. They don't eat cucumbers; they are going to be down the road in the corn field.

Sometimes I wonder if I'm not a lot like that scarecrow. I have a job that requires a lot of mental work—checking to make sure amounts are accurate and talking with people who have run into financial difficulty and can't make payments toward an outstanding bill. When I get home, I'm just too tired to want to do anything else.



While I'm working hard to do what I think needs to be done as far as my job is concerned, I sometimes wonder if I'm overlooking something more important in my family life. I'm too tired from defending those cucumbers all day to go home and chase the crows out of the cornfield, so to speak.

For others, it may be that all your energy is spent in gaining promotions in your job life, and then you don't have the time and energy to devote to your spiritual life. Or perhaps you are a sports enthusiast who lets that interfere with time spent with your family.

Whatever the situation may be, we need to make sure we are spending our time and energy on things that really matter and are important in the long run.

Lorna Smith, Lubbock, Texas



WITH YOUR REMAINING SUMMERS

On May 24, 2015, one of our elders preached a sermon with the above title. It is not unusual for me to take notes during a sermon, but it is unusual for me to keep them for over a year. This particular sermon was very good and is well worth reviewing each spring. Here is how I remember his sermon.

We must live lives of readiness. Life is very brief, so how does brevity affect us? Psalm 90:10-12: ¹⁰ *Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.* ¹¹ *If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.* ¹² Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

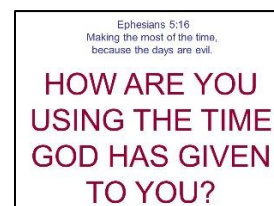
Ephesians 5:15: *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, and Colossians 4:5: Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.*

There are five ways to have knowledge of our days.

1. If you are going someplace for God, get going! *Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans* (Proverbs 16:3)
2. If you have been given Christian talents, get growing! ¹² *In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!* ¹⁴ *But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil* (Hebrews 5:12, 14). It takes effort and training. Remember the parable of the sower in Mark 4.
3. Do you want to care more? Get caring! There are numerous opportunities to volunteer in every community. People matter. ⁹ *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* ¹⁰ *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers* (Galatians 6:9-10)
4. Talk to one person about Jesus—get talking! In our congregation, there are many tools available—Friend Speak, World Bible School, Fishers of Men, and more. Be aware of needs and pray for them. *Be yeast, light and salt* (Romans 10:14).
5. Do you need to change your life to serve? Get changing! All of us experience storms in life. The wise prepare. *"I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears* (Psalm 34:4).

Change is important during storms, but also our walk (or lack of) with God impacts others (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12). Change is essential if you are not in Christ. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, *we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* *We must change, seek God, and put on a new self.*

How many summers do you have until you go home? No one knows. The time is now!

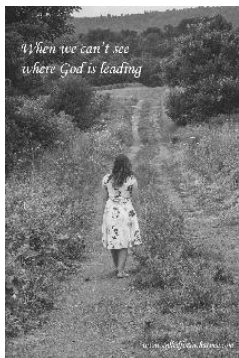




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IF THE LORD WILLS...

In the New Testament, Jesus gives an account of a rich farmer. Being rich was not his problem—his problem was that he left God out of his plans. His fields yielded so much that he pondered what to do until he came up with the following plan. *“I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’”* (Luke 12:18-19) In verses 20 and 21, we read what the Lord thought of the idea. *“But*



God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Many times, we pray for things that, in our wisdom, we think we need. Sometimes we may even

include the words, “if it is God’s will,” but do we really mean that? Do we truly turn over our cares, worries, and distress to Him; or do we just say that and hold onto them anyway? There are two verses we need to remember when we take our petitions to the Lord. There are many more, but let’s just look at these for now.

Psalm 100:3 – *“Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”*

1 Corinthians 1:26 – *“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”*

Remember Judea’s godly king, Hezekiah? We are told in 2 Kings 18:6, *“For he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him.”* But, like all mortal men, it came Hezekiah’s time to die. In 2 Kings 20, Isaiah came to him with a message from God: *“Set your house in*

order, for you shall die, and not live.” Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to God for more time – all the while reminding the Lord of his many years of faithfulness. The prophet returned and told him he would live another 15 years. Good, right?

Three years later, Hezekiah had a son and named him Manasseh. Twelve years later, Hezekiah died and his young son became king. What kind of king did he become? We are told in 2 Kings 22 that he...

1. Did evil in the sight of the Lord,
2. Built altars to the hosts of heaven in the temple,
3. Sacrificed his son to an idol,
4. Used soothsaying and witchcraft,
5. Put idols in the temple,
6. Seduced Israel to do evil, and
7. *“He has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols.”* (2 Kings 21:11)

As a parent, if God gave you the choice of dying today or living long enough to have a child that would be one of the most wicked people on earth (and thus spend eternity in hell), what would you choose? We cannot see the future, and we don’t know what would happen if our prayers were all answered as we think best. Let’s always ask God to do what He thinks is best for us.



Jeanetta Watkins, Adamsville, Alabama

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BEING WATCHFUL FOR OTHERS

It was early enough this morning that traffic was still light on a US highway that runs through our city. As I traveled northbound, I crested a hill and saw a couple walking on the edge of the southbound lanes. There is no sidewalk on that side of the street, but many people walk through the grass to get to a popular store. The slope of the hill is quite steep as it falls away from the highway, so pedestrians have to walk carefully to avoid slipping down the slope.

These people were not walking on the grass; they were walking at the edge of the outer lane. What was unique was that the man had a couple of bags of their purchases slung over one shoulder as one hand held them in place.

His other hand was extended behind him clasping her hand.

At first I thought it was a romantic gesture and that they were walking single file for safety purposes. As I got closer to them, I noticed that she is blind. It was obvious



why he had chosen to walk on the road itself rather than on the edge of the slope. He was carefully leading her through the dangerous area as his hand held hers securely and kept

her from falling against the curb on one side or from wandering into traffic on the other. What gentleness, what love and concern he was showing by guiding her safely.

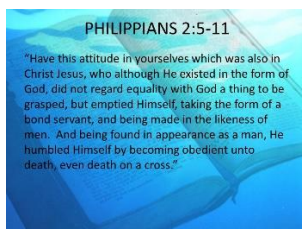
We all have had people in our lives who have been a guiding hand along our path. Years ago, a couple who was somewhat older than we were took us under their wings and became our mentors. For three years, they encouraged us, guided us and helped us grow in our Christian walk. Before that, I had two friend in college who were only two years older than I, but they were much more mature than I was. They set a very good example of faith and spirituality for me, and they will forever be very dear to me. My sweet husband is so strong and true, and he leads me daily. My closest friend has seen me at my worst and loves me and encourages me anyway.



God led the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the Promised Land. He leads His children today through the minefields of this life—if we let Him.

Are you a guide for anyone? Do you mentor a new Christian or a child? Sometimes the path of life involves some treacherous footing, and we all need the love and encouragement of those who are stronger and wiser. Always be mindful of those around you who need guidance and encouragement.

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, MO



Before You...

William Arthur Ward

"Before you speak, listen.

Before you write, think.

Before you spend, earn.

Before you invest, investigate.

Before you criticize, wait.

Before you pray, forgive.

Before you quit, try.

Before you retire, save.

Before you die, give."



"Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!"

June 23-27, 2018

In the Land of Enchantment

If you have never attended the Red River Family Encampment, you have been missing out! RRFE is truly a spiritual feast at a setting in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains of Northern New Mexico. Many great speakers from various parts of the country speak. There are classes each morning and afternoons are free to explore the area. There is a children's program, so bring your little ones and enjoy worshipping with brothers and sisters from many states. The web site for the schedule and for information on accommodations is: <http://www.rffe.org>. Don't miss out!



Sunrise is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserve.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

