

II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

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A Ministry of Grace Baptist Church, Pittsfield, Illinois - 217-285-5230

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## A Character Quiz

1. If you found a pocketbook with \$1,000, would you give it to the owner if no one would ever know you found it?

2. If you could advance yourself by unfair methods, would you do it if no one would ever find out you were unfair?

3. If the bus driver failed to collect your fare, would you voluntarily pay it?

4. If there were no locks on any house, store or bank, would you take anything if no one would ever find out?

5. If your business partner died, would you pay his relatives their fair share, if you did not have to pay them?

6. If you were an employer trying to hire an efficient, honest and competent employee, would you hire yourself at your salary?

7. If you are an employer, would you like to be working for yourself with the wages, hours and working conditions you provide?

8. If you are a parent, would

## **NO LAW AGAINST THE SPIRIT'S FRUIT**

(Galatians 5:22-23)

**JOY** is Love exulting.

**PEACE** is Love in repose.

**LONG-SUFFERING** is Love untiring.

**GENTLENESS** is Love enduring.

**GOODNESS** is Love in action.

**FAITH** is Love on the battlefield.

**MEEKNESS** is Love under discipline.

**TEMPERANCE** is Love in training.

## **In Days Gone By**

On March 29, 1973, President Nixon announced the end of the Vietnam War. All prisoners came home.

you like to be the child of a parent just like you are?

9. If you had your choice, would you like to live in a community with people working in church, civic and community affairs just like you do?

10. If you had to live with someone just like you are for the rest of your life, would you look forward to it as a wonderful opportunity and privilege?

—Herbert V. Prochnow in  
*Speaker's Book of Illustrations.*

## THE MARATHONER WHO FINISHED LAST

At 7 p.m. on the evening of October 20, 1968, a few thousand spectators remained in the Mexico City Olympic stadium. It was cool and dark as the last of the marathon runners were carried off in exhaustion to first-aid stations. More than an hour earlier, Mamo Wolde of Ethiopia - looking as fresh as when he started the race - powerfully moved toward the finish line, the winner of the grueling 26-mile, 385-yard event. His teammate, the legendary Abebe Bikila, winner of the two previous Olympic marathons in Rome and Tokyo, had been forced to retire from the race after ten miles because of a broken bone in his leg.

As the remaining spectators prepared to leave, those sitting near the marathon gates suddenly were aroused by the sound of sirens going off and policemen blowing whistles. Confused, the spectators looked toward the gate. There, entering the stadium came a lone figure wearing the colors of Tanzania. His name was John Stephen Akhwari. He was the last man to finish the marathon. His leg was bloodied and bandaged, and he grimaced with each step. He had severely injured his knee in a fall. He painfully hobbled around the 400-meter track.

The spectators who remained rose and applauded the courage of this man as if they were receiving the winner. Akhwari painfully finished the run and crossed the finish line. Then he slowly walked off the field without turning to the cheering crowd.

Asked why he had not quit, since his task was so painful and he had no chance of winning a medal, he said: "My country did not send me 7,000 miles to start the race. They sent me 7,000 miles to finish it."

## SMILE

GRANDMOTHER was trying to teach little Tommy some table manners.

After a few lessons, he said: "Grandmother, you said I should always eat my pie with a fork when I am invited out to dinner."

"Yes, that's right," his grandmother replied.

"Well," Tommy said, "would you happen to have a piece of pie that I could practice on?"

**Improving The Tree.** Some folks think they hurt the church when they get mad and quit, but they are wrong about that. It never hurts the tree for the dried-up apples to fall off!

AT an auction, a man finally bought a parrot after some spirited bidding.

"Can he talk?" he asked the auctioneer as he picked up the bird.

"Talk! Who do you think was bidding against you all this time?"

## Allurements of Evil

My friends, the other day I was going down the street, and I saw a drove of pigs following a man. This excited my curiosity so much that I determined to follow. I did so; and to my great surprise, I saw them follow him to the slaughterhouse.

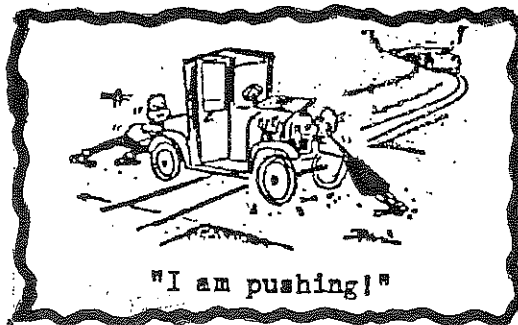
Anxious to know how this was brought about, I said to the man, "My friend, how did you manage to induce these pigs to follow you here?"

"Oh! did you not see?" said the man. "I had a basket of beans under my arm; and I dropped a few as I came along, and so they followed me."

Yes, and I thought: *So it is the Devil has his basket of beans under his arm, and he drops them as he goes along; and what multitudes he induces to follow him to an everlasting slaughterhouse!*

Yes, friends; and all your broad and crowded thoroughfares are strewn with the beans of the Devil.

—Rowland Hill



## To Get, Give

If you want to get, you must first learn to give. To hoard up precious seed corn in the granary will never result in an increase. Money hidden in the mattress will earn no interest. The talent that is not put to use is lost.

Very few people begin the day with the question, "How much can I give today?" The most common question is, "How much can I get today?"

My friend, you will get "out of it" in direct proportion to what you put "into it."

One miser, being asked for a donation to a charitable cause, said, "It is my money, and I got it by not giving it away."

His friend then asked, "How much did you begin with? When you came into the world, you came with nothing, and someday you will leave it with nothing. It is not yours at all; it is only a loan for which you will be called into account."

Christian, take notice. God will call you into account not only for how you spent your time and your talents but how you spent your money. More than that, we shall be judged for our lies, when we sing but do not practice:

How inconsistent the sight of a man in church with a five-hundred-dollar diamond on his finger, singing lustily, "Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small," while all the time he is fumbling through a handful of dollars and quarters to find a nickel for the collection!

—M. R. DeHaan

# Miscellaneous-

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

\*STORIES  
\*EVENTS  
\*VIEWS  
\*NEWS



## When a Family Member Acts Up

When I was a young youth minister, a fellow with which I served had a young wife. It was disappointing to the congregation and devastating to the preacher when he returned home from a long day at work to discover that his wife had packed up nearly everything of value in the house, emptied their joint banking account, and left him to take up with another man.

Family members have a way of breaking our hearts and leaving us depressed with feelings of rejection. When this happens to you, remember the following three truths.

Every family has some knots in their family tree. The very first couple (Adam and Eve) had a son that murdered his brother. David had two sons who broke just about every law of decency (Amnon and Absalom). Even the innocent Jesus had an ancestor who had sex with her father-in-law (Tamar). And our Lord's half-brothers tried to overpower the Son of God thinking he was insane (Mark 3:21).

Just because your family commits sin doesn't mean that you are a failure. Since all of us have family members who disappoint us, we all need to understand that each person is accountable for their own actions and sins (Ezekiel 18:20).

God considers you to be more valuable than anything else in the world. Despite what your family does, God loves you. He forgives you. You are more valuable to God. You are still capable of doing great things! God wants you to continue to set an example of faith to the brethren (Matthew 16:26; Philippians 4:13; 1 Timothy 4:12).

*Larry Fitzgerald*

## Useful in Service

A great musician willed his beautiful violin to a relative with the condition that it never be played again. Soon the instrument that had made such beautiful music became warped and useless through neglect. This is a reminder that a life withdrawn from service to others becomes empty and useless. Keep your life tuned up and filled with meaning and joy by giving yourself in sacrificial service.