

BILL ANDERSON
MINISTRIES

ONE-LINERS TO LIVE BY

(WITH A FEW MULTIPLE-LINERS THROWN IN)

WHEN YOU WERE BORN, YOU WERE CRYING AND EVERYBODY ELSE WAS SMILING;
LIVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT, WHEN YOU DIE, YOU'LL BE SMILING AND EVERYBODY
ELSE WILL BE CRYING.

1. For an atheist to find God is as difficult as for a thief to find a policeman...and for the same reason.
2. Some people are born on third base and think they've hit a triple.
3. There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit.
4. Every adult needs a chance to fail, and every youngster needs a chance to succeed.
5. Compliment when you can, even if your whole heart's not in it. I love this note from the English lass to her aunt: "Dear Aunt Emma; Thank you for the pincushion. I've always wanted a pincushion, but not very much."
6. "One star differeth from another star in glory." (I Corinthians 15:41) That's true of stars in the heavens and "stars" on earth, and, in both cases, it's OK. *Don't require that all stars manifest the same level of glory!* Bask in your own glory. And in the other man's whether it's brighter, or less so, than yours.
7. Your attitude determines your altitude. (That line is part of an excellent daily diet. For life.)
8. "They ever must believe the lie
Who see with and not through the eye."

One of my all-time favorite sentences, by the English poet William Blake. It observes the important truth that the eye which truly sees, that is, perceives the inner essence of a thing, is an instrument of the brain, the heart, the spirit, which uses the eye, and thus sees the deeper meaning of what it looks upon. The eye, so used, is an instrument of the inner man. For those who see only "with" the eye, no ultimate meaning can be attached to what they see because they observe only the externality of the thing. Thus, they "must ever believe the lie" because they see only the surface, never the deeper reality. It reminds of another line, one about science: "All science is one-eyed and color blind." Too, it is reminiscent of Jesus' "He who hath ears, let him hear." (Matthew 11:15, etc.) And of many of the poets. Wordsworth has it this way:

Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who *sees*, takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.

9. "There is no beautifier of face and form like the will to scatter joy and not sadness around you."
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)
10. All normal humans want to either be handsome or beautiful, but remember: "*My outward appearance* is but a frame around the picture God is creating of my inner life." (Bill Gothard)
11. "Lord, don't ever let me lose sight of what is invisible...but real."
12. "It came to pass that after a time the musician died, but the music lived."
13. Search others for their virtues, yourself for your vices.
14. When the horse is dead, dismount.
15. "Being in a hurry is one of the tributes he paid to life." And being *contented* is a tribute we all owe to Him who gave life!
16. "If you'll just allow Me to run the world, you can deal with the stuff I've told you to do."
Signed: God
17. Enjoy living today! Wordsworth has a beautiful line about some birds in the early spring:
The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I cannot measure:---
But the least motion which they made
It seemed a thrill of pleasure. (From Lines Written in Early Spring)

And Ecclesiastes, contrary to conventional wisdom, has some "happy" lines. In 9:7f we read: "Go then, eat your bread in happiness, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart; for God has already approved your works. Let your clothes be white all the time and let not oil be lacking on your head. Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given you under the sun..." (Another translation of one of those sentences is, "Wear your party clothes and put on a dash of cologne!" I have wondered, by the way, which one of Solomon's many wives and concubines he was referring to as "the woman you love...!")

18. I have looked for years for the precise wording of a mellifluous line I had once read which contains an exquisitely picturesque image---and just found it! e.e. cummings spoke of a lady through whose profound and fragile lips the sweet small clumsy feet of April came into the ragged meadows of my soul. I hope some woman walked into your life and produced that effect in you! Or that you, as a woman, produced such a response by your entrance into some man's life!

19. Men, listen up! “The entire story of a woman’s life is the story of her *affections*.” (Washington Irving, from *The Broken Heart*.)
20. If you have stature you don’t need status. (Given to me by Glynne Johnston, Euless, Texas, in 1970 or so.)
21. He who does what he wants to do as a vocation never has to go to work.
22. I am told that the word “crisis” in Chinese means “a dangerous opportunity.”
23. When God wants to do something important, it is my observation (which means I forgot where I first heard it) that He always chooses somebody who’s busy.
24. There are sad lines, too, but highly ponderable:
 - 1) “Life goes on; I forget just why.” (Anonymous)
 - 2) “For of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: ‘It might have been!’” (John Greenleaf Whittier)
 - 3) “Life is a dream in the night, a fear among fears; A naked runner lost in a storm of spears.” (Arthur Symons)
 - 4) “Life on this planet is like a train plunging at full speed through the night, with a slain conductor in the cab....The train is the world; we are the freight; fate is the track; death is the darkness; God is the engineer--who is dead.” (*La Beta Humaine*, Emile Zola)
 - 5) “You can’t win the game. You can’t tie the game. You can’t quit the game.” (My wife especially dislikes that one!)
 - 6) “Men have died from time to time, and worms have eaten them, but not for love.” (Shakespeare)
 - 7) “...hearing often-times the still, sad music of humanity...” (Words-worth)
 - 8) “As the year comes round to spring, so love becomes a lesser thing; prove that I lie.”
25. I once heard a countrified football announcer say, in describing a ball-carrier stumbling in open field, “He is downed by self-tackle-i-zation!” That would be a fitting epitaph for a lot of us. In fact, say we not well that most of us, in the end, are suicides of one sort or another?
26. Waxing eloquent about panderers of platitudes from the pulpit, a preacher said to his fellow-practitioners: “Too many of us metaphysicians don’t know how to tangibilitate!” Been there, heard that! And, alas, I am sure, done that!
27. Another pastor, fishing for a compliment, asked his wife how many great preachers she thought lived in the state. Her quiet answer: “Probably one less than you think.”
28. Nobody is so lazy as he who pursues another man’s dream.

29. When you speak, said the old teachers of rhetoric, three things should mark your speech: logos (that is, you ought to have something to say, a “word”), ethos (that is, you should manifest the spirit of fellow-feeling, which connects you with the audience), and pathos (that is, passion; you should speak as if you feel deeply about what you are saying).
30. Lady Astor was once criticized by a social butterfly who had been placed, in the critic’s view, in a less-than-eminant chair at the table of a gala social event. Ponder thoughtfully what The Lady said to the lament: “I’ve learned that those who matter don’t mind, and those who mind don’t matter.” (Famous for her frankness, she once asked Joseph Stalin, upon meeting him for the first time: “Mr. Stalin, when are you going to stop murdering people?”)
31. “I know God as well as He knows Himself.” (Eunomius, a fourth century bishop.)
32. “The night has a thousand eyes,
And the day but one;
Yet the light of the bright world dies,
With the dying sun.
The mind has a thousand eyes,
And the heart but one;
Yet the light of a whole life dies,
When love is done.” (Francis Bourdillon)
33. “Your Father’s smile will make you forget your brother’s frown.” (C. H. Spurgeon)
34. The sun cannot reveal herself to a blind man.
35. After many attempts, if you cannot solve a problem, what you may have on your hands is not a problem but a fact. Facts cannot be solved; they can only be coped with.
36. The earth is a banquet; no man should starve.
37. “If you see a turtle on a stump, you know he didn’t get there all by himself.” (That’s a very picturesque sentiment, and is meant to convey, I am sure, an important and obvious truth. But, I thought, (a) the turtle probably doesn’t know what’s he’s doing there. And (b) couldn’t do very much up there anyway. And (c) he certainly wouldn’t know how to get down. So (d) why don’t we just forget about the turtle on the stump!)
38. A man once said to a sad friend, “Cheer up; things could get worse.” His buddy’s response ten days later: “The guy is a prophet: I did and they did!”

39. I know two women. One of them can take a single sunbeam and make an entire Tahitian summer out of it. The other? She can take a single ice-cube and make the Antarctic ice-cap out of it. What-cha makin'? You into ice or incandescence? Refrigeration or refraction?
40. "Visions I no longer see;
Smoke is only smoke to me.
And now I am old."
41. I would rather have a man say, with poor grammar, "I done gone and had a dream," when he had actually experienced one, than to hear a man say, with exquisite grammar and diction, "I have had the existential experience of having been apprised of an apparition"when he'd seen nothing. Whatever else you are....*BE REAL!*
42. A man walking down the street with a wildcat under his arm has thirty-seven times more knowledge about wildcats than a man who has only read books about wildcats. (Will Rogers made that sentence famous.)
43. The way to become comparatively religious is to study comparative religions.
44. No man ever walks away from the true faith because he is a theological conservative; he walks away because he is theological liberal.
45. Anderson's Axiom: He who is capable of responding to counsel never needs it. He who is incapable of responding to counsel always needs it.
46. "The light draws bugs." (A very important truth to remember when attempting to understand why some peculiar folk attend church. They're psycho-ceramics. Cracked pots.)
47. The fundamental anomaly? That two Christians cannot get along with each other.
48. I am amazed at how much I publicly shun applause and secretly desire it. (That is from *Markings*, an autobiography by Dag Hammerskold, former Secretary General of the United Nations; it is not an exact quote, but you get the idea!)
49. "If you fix the fix God fixes, He'll fix a fix you can't fix until He fixes you the way He wants you to be fixed." (That's original, and states a very, very important spiritual principle. One can only run and hide from God behind so many hedges.)
50. "A goosegirl ermined is a goosegirl still..." (Dorothy Reid) The corollary is also true: a queen in tatters is regal still!

51. The sign said, "Life is not a problem to be worked out but a gift to be enjoyed."
52. Growing up, I heard this: "He's as independent as a pig on ice." Although I raised pigs as a young man, I've never seen one on ice. The mental picture of such a scene is, however, unforgettable!
53. Don't be surprised that nobody wants to help you if they don't know you're hurting.
54. G. K. Chesterton once said, "All men matter. You matter. I matter. Every man matters. It is the hardest thing in theology to believe. (*The Complete Father Brown*, Penguin Books, NY, 1986, p. 613)
55. Theodore Storm, a German poet, has this:
 One man may ask, "What comes of it?"
 Another, "What is right?"
 And that is what distinguishes
 The vassal from the knight.
 (Quoted in *Pastor Niemoller And His Creed*, p. 42)
56. It's what you learn after you know everything, somebody said, that really counts.
57. I know it's simple but listen: *It does no good to close the barn door after the mule's gone!* (I grew up at Moonshine Hill, Texas, and that's the version I first heard.) Or "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Or (as they say here in Florida) "Prepare for the wind before it blows." Or as God says, "A prudent man foresees evil, and hides himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." (Proverbs 22:3) Why do all cultures, in many ways, admonish us about the mule and the barn door? And why did God repeat the Proverbs passage---*almost word for word*---later in Proverbs in 27:12? Because most of us didn't get it the first time and still run out and close the barn door after the mule's long gone! Is your mule eyeing an open barn door as we speak?
58. "Nothing in life is so exhilarating as to be shot at without result." (Winston Churchill. It reminds me of Ben Jonson's "To hear that one is soon going to be hanged wonderfully concentrates the faculties.")
59. Another one on shooting: Don't shoot me and then criticize me for limping.
60. An honor from a dishonorable man is no honor.
61. It is late in the day when small men cast long shadows.
62. All servants of God should remember this fact: we are all in service, not in production. (I had prayed for rain one Sunday morning, and when it didn't come, I apologized to the congregation. A

little elderly saint, female of course, responded with that line, forty years ago or so.)

63. “This world is a comedy to those who think, a tragedy to those who feel.” (Horace Walpole. The Christian would add: “And, ultimately, an adventure to those who live by faith in Christ.”)
64. “Don’t spur a horse with a rotten saddle.” (That’s the Moonshine Hill version; it means, I guess, don’t push the equipment beyond it’s capacities.)
65. For troubled times: The sun will rise tomorrow and you and I will be here to see it. Or we will have an even better view from heaven.
66. Look at the unexpected painful events as life’s little colorful surprises.
67. Don’t bet on the fairy!
68. If you aim at nothing, do not be surprised if you hit your target.
69. There are two ways to ride a roller coaster. You can buckle in, grip the bar in front of you with all your might, close your eyes, grit your teeth, get a knot in your stomach, and hang on until the ordeal’s over. Or you can buckle in, throw both hands in the air and scream for joy, squeezing every ounce of fun out of the ride. On life’s roller-coaster (which, by necessity, everybody has to ride), it’s the same. The ride is going to have it’s ups and downs, it’s twists and turns. Those are givens. So: is it fear or fun? Grimace or grin?
70. Paper is a sorry conductor of thought and emotion. But if it’s all you have, go for it! The Bible and Shakespeare and the last letter you received from your sweetheart demonstrate that, with all it’s limitations, paper isn’t totally useless in “conducting” thought and emotion.
71. “There is no vantage ground like the vantage ground of truth.” (The pastor who baptized me, ordained me, and married me, Troy Sumrall, said that from the pulpit in the First Baptist Church, Refugio, Texas, in 1953 or 1954; it stuck.)
72. “Today a peacock; tomorrow a feather-duster.” (But useful, I suppose, in either case.)
73. Always study your motivation. That is the big issue. *WHY* are you doing what you’re doing?
74. There is still time for you to become a charter member of the Royal Order of Forgivers.
75. I knew a couple once who were the Duke and Duchess of Misery. Are you any kin of theirs?

76. I heard, in the quiet of an early morning, in the city of Jerusalem, two sounds: a rooster crow and a baby cry. They sounded precisely like an American rooster and an American baby. Nobody coughs in a foreign language. That fact has imponderably profound implications!
77. “Man does not live by bread alone, even if the bread be soaked in honey and studded with raisins, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of some sort of a god.” (I first saw that line from Nietzsche about forty years ago and have no idea where.)
78. The past is not what it used to be. (G. K. Chesterton)
79. Surrender to success! (A profound and biblical thought. Every successful human has surrendered to wise choices.)
80. Money doesn't buy happiness. Poverty doesn't either. But if I have a choice, I would rather have the money.
81. “I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.” Get in on that! (Dr. Benjamin Reed)
82. He has missed much in life who has not prayed at the bedside of his own seriously ill child.
83. If the world could be saved by knowledge, it would have been saved eight or ten times last year. The world is not saved by truth, but by truth applied.
84. You are not what your friends say you are. You are not what your enemies say you are. You are what God knows you are.
85. The most powerful encouragement to do the right thing, besides the eyes of God, are those of your child.
86. The profoundest paradox: I am a creature, yet a cause.
87. *He who lives without love must learn to rejoice in God's compensations.*
88. Aldous Huxley, the famed agnostic, once wrote: “Sooner or later one asks even of Beethoven, even of Shakespeare, ‘Is that all?’ “ But not of Jesus! He told the woman at the well that if she would drink of the water He was offering her, she would never thirst again! (The Huxley quote may be seen in *Psychological Seduction*, Wm Kilpatrick, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1983, p. 129)
89. I have often thought of a conundrum one of my professors, Dr. John Davidson, once gave us: The

thinking man is always growing in his ignorance. He doesn't know how much he doesn't know until his horizons expand beyond what he does know. The deeper his study, the larger the unknown realms become. He knows more *actually*, but less *relatively*. (I should have asked him: "Does that mean the process continues until we know nothing!")

90. Why is any human surprised by life's enervating inevitabilities: satiation, aging, the loss of love, ennui, desertion by friends, memory difficulties, etc.? It's like that southern waitress said, explaining to the yankee the unordered white blob on his breakfast plate: "Them's grits; they ain't got to be ordered; they comes natural."

But there are the *energizing* inevitabilities, too. And, as with their counterparts, it is not appropriate to be taught, ever, to name them in advance. To do so would dull the joy of their arrival.

Maybe (a) we couldn't live with anticipating the pain of the enervating inevitabilities, (b) we couldn't understand, existentially, what pain (if any!) they would produce, anyway, before they occur, and/or (c) the courage to be (Paul Tillich) requires that we "cut a deal" with life in the flow and context of the inevitabilities, painful or pleasant, and embrace them as and when they arrive. And maybe the shock of those pleasantnesses and painfulnesses prevent rigor mortis from setting in too early, of being embalmed too far in advance of our funerals. And maybe we are not experts at labeling either category of such inevitabilities as "good" or "bad," "enervating" or "energizing" anyway. And maybe, further, even if we got the labels right momentarily, we would opt for the right to change them later. In fact, be forced to. Several times! Maybe a personal and loving Providence looks over us after all, enabling us to cope creatively and redemptively with every life experience. As it arrives. After all, it isn't as if He hasn't seen such things before! Or that He can't see around the corners!

91. Have you been quiet lately? Wordsworth finishes his beautiful little poem I Wondered Lonely as a Cloud, after describing his intense emotion at seeing an immense stretch of daffodils--"Ten thousand saw I at a glance, tossing their head in sprightly dance" ---with this:

I gazed and gazed but little thought
What wealth to me the show had brought;
For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude.

He also once said that poetry was born of "the recollection of emotion in tranquility." Your life, and mine, might be more poetic---and thus richer---if we gave God a chance to help us recollect emotions, especially positive ones---in tranquility. "What was it that I felt when the event occurred?"

Why did I feel that way? What were the smells, tastes, textures, colors of the experience? What was the context? How am richer that it occurred? What did it teach me about life? How did it increase the acreage of my soul? Dear God: Delay the inevitable day when I cannot recall such scenes! (Obviously, writing down such emotions enables one, more easily, to revisit them. To enjoy Roses in December.)

92. As with physical food, all humans require emotional food. Daily. The emotional diet must be studied much more carefully, and a proper one adhered to much more assiduously, than a physical one. *The need for soul-health is vastly greater than body-health!* What is it, today, that you will feed on emotionally? Is your emotional diet composed of good food or garbage?
93. I once thought the big thing was to know. I now know the big thing is to obey.
94. Here is a priceless set of lines you're going to need in a lot of settings:

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new;
And God fulfills himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."
(Tennyson, Morte d' Arthur)
95. You don't have to open all of life's presents on a single Christmas morning.
96. Never leave a man temporarily happy at the expense of leaving him permanently sad.
97. Dance like nobody's watching.
98. "Everybody soon or late sits down to a banquet of consequences." (Robert Louis Stevenson, quoted in *Broadman Comments*, 1990-1991, p. 31. The Moonshine Hill version was, "If you listen to the music, one day, you gonna have to pay the fiddler.)
99. God never understates or overstates. Man always does one or the other.
100. Better loneliness than guilt.
101. The three big questions: where did I come from, what does life mean, and where am I going. And, actually, only the last one counts!
102. You may have a short-term problem, but if it's a bullet coming at you, it will have long-term results.
103. In the late 1960's I wrote this "daily ten" down and have carried them in my billfold ever since:-

Stand tall
Breathe deeply
Love
Listen
Cool it
Eat moderately
Exercise
Encourage
Believe
Think of Him

104. Nobody is worth your hate. Think of it: to hate a person gives him a place of honor, sacramentalizes him, in fact, in a sense, worships him. Is any man worth that? Let the malevolent man walk through the lobby of your mental hotel, *but never let him rent a room.*
105. You can only say God is doing a poor job if you know all of God's problems. (I first heard that from Jess Moody.)
106. What man gives man can take away. What God gives no man can take away. And God will not take away. ("The gifts and callings of God are without repentance." Romans 11:29)
107. As I thought one morning about the messiness of human progress, even in man's most glorious moments, this came to me: "The grandest human achievement is attended by lint." Don't be surprised, or bothered, by the lint!
108. "Don't be more religious than God." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
109. If you're not praying, you're on your own.
110. Believe what you believe! Don't believe what you don't believe! Make up your mind and go with it, but don't live the remainder of your life in a state of animated (or unanimated!) suspension. As G. K. Chesterton once said: "The reason for opening the mind is the same for opening the mouth---to close it on something solid once in a while."
111. You can only *gain* spiritual ground slowly, but you can lose it very rapidly.
112. Sometimes you simply have to attack, even if you have few resources, courage, or strength. Every student of military history remembers the British naval commander, Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham who said at Taranto, "We're so surrounded, all we can do is attack!"

113. I have noticed that I am the hero of all my stories.
114. Over the portals of an Allied military cemetery in what was once Burma (now Myanmar), “Tell them we gave our todays for their tomorrows.” All good men are doing the same, in one way or the other.
115. If you’re unhappy with the harvest, change the seed! And then sow new seed profusely! And then wait, very, very patiently! But don’t just sit there through another planting season.
116. “Don’t ever get into a stinking contest with a skunk. He’s got equipment with which you can’t compete. And besides: even if you win, it isn’t worth it!” (From Moonshine Hill’s Pirl Steagall---my brother-in-law and surrogate father.)
117. “You don’t make two bushes one by tying their tops together.” (That’s about marriage! God has to create the one from the two. A woman once famously said, “I knew that we were supposed to be one; I just didn’t know *which* one.”)
118. Quitting and stopping are two different things. It is never right to quit, but God does allow us to stop at times---with His full blessing. (In fact, He will obviously let all of us stop one day!) The Lord Jesus’ last words on earth---actually one Greek word---were “It is finished!” Meaning: “I am not quitting, but I have completed the work the Father sent Me to do.”
119. Cool it. “He that has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.” (Proverbs 25:28)
120. The evening newscaster said about a radical American author: “She finally made her peace with the universe.” I thought, “Well, good for her!” As if the universe was nervously wringing its hands waiting for her nod of acceptance! I’ve noticed an interesting phenomenon in that regard: in man’s struggle against the universe, the universe almost always wins.
- That reminds me of a statement made by Stephen Crane in his *War is Kind*: “A man said to the universe, ‘Sir, I exist.’ ‘However,’ replied the universe, ‘the fact has not created in me a sense of obligation.’”
121. As a senior pastor for over forty-five years, I’ve stood many times beside deathbeds, and I’ve never heard a single person express regrets that he didn’t close one more business deal.
122. Say something new, remembering Tennyson’s word about the magician of King Arthur’s court, Merlin: “May perdition singe him for the weariness he worketh with his one tale!”

123. How long has it been since you noticed door hinges? The things doors swing open and shut on. Few people notice hinges. Without hinges, however, 99.999% of all doors don't open. Gotta have them. Same with people. While observing the huge "door" people operate, you might miss the little "hinge people" without whom, well, the door wouldn't function. If God makes you a "door" person, rejoice in your role, but if He ordains that you be an unnoticed "hinge" person, rejoice in that role, too. You're eminently necessary!
124. "Make the *least* of all that goes and the *most* of all that comes." (A Carolina mountain saying, and a favorite of the Billy Graham family.)
125. Halitosis is better than no breath at all. (My wife hates that one, but who can deny it's truth!)
126. He who attempts to destroy our friendship is neither my friend nor yours. What a fruitful, and enlightening, study is that fact!
127. The weakest ink is stronger than the strongest memory. Take notes!
128. A man is not defined by what troubles him, but by what reassures him.
129. A profound psychological reality:

"Pussycat, pussycat, where have you been?"
 "I've been to London to see the Queen."
 "Pussycat, pussycat, what saw you there?"
 "I saw a mouse under her chair."

First, it is a British nursery rhyme and so "been" must be pronounced "bean." How is it, please, that a cat could be in the presence of royalty, chin deep in pomp and pageantry, and see...a mouse! Ah, because a cat is programmed to see a mouse! What good things are you missing because of your feline programming? And what do you intend to do about your programming? Hear this: no man sees the world as it is; he sees the world *as he is*. And anyway, is a mouse *really* all you want?

130. About thirty years ago I went through an extended period of serious thought about the entire thing called life and its meaning. I came to see that authentic existence revolves around three pivotal points:

- 1) MEANING, that is, I sought to discover whether or not life has any meaning; I came to assume that it did. The alternative, I think, is unbearable. And unthinkable anyway.
- 2) MESSAGE, that is, if life has a meaning, one has to come to his or her essential message about life, in general, and in his or her own personal existence. You and I don't have a message; we are a

message.

3) METHODOLOGY, that is, one must seek for a methodology by means of which his or her life message is expressed---not solely in a verbal way, but existentially, with one's entire life-experience.

Hear this: that, among other things, means that common, down-to-earth, mundane activities are majestic things because they relate, or *should*---directly---to the meaning and message of one's life. That elevates such things into the Big Picture, into the very substance of one's existence. The Big Things sacramentalize the Little Things! Even mundane things like methods. Never make little of methods!

131. The big question is not whether you can get the job, but whether you can get the job done.
132. "Thou hast nothing to draw with and the well is deep." (John 4:11) That was once kindly said about a midget of a mind stating its desire to write a biography of a giant of a man. How appropriate!
133. "Kingdom authority flows from His throne unto His own." (The best line in modern hymnody; from Jack Hayford's *Majesty*.)
134. Criticism! Don't you love it! About criticism: (a) It is often the death gurgle of the non-achiever. (That's from Jess Moody) (b) "If a donkey brays at you, and only two percent of what he says is right, *benefit by the two percent!*" (That's from my Moonshine Hill brother-in-law.) (c) In any case, expect it! Like death and taxes, it's going to happen! (d) It's an honorable thing that everybody doesn't like you. One of the reasons you love Jesus is that the Pharisees hated Him! And (e) Hear this: very often the one thing that prevents people from standing in the winner's circle is the incapacity to handle criticism.
135. NOTHING GREAT WAS EVER ACHIEVED WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM!
136. You can't steal second base with one foot on first.
137. Life's most inviolable infallibility? Here it is: *time wounds all heels*. (Read that again and be sure you understand it!)
138. Don't cut a dog's tail off a joint at the time.
139. God does not give dying grace until it is time to die.
140. 141. In prayer, heaven does not pass on any hypothetical questions. Stop wasting your time and God's time, too, "what-iffing" in prayer.
141. The most difficult place on earth to serve Jesus is wherever you are at the moment.

142. It's either supernatural or it's not. That's original, and refers to a time, early in my Christian walk, when I had to make a very critical decision: is my life in Christ based on natural law or supernatural law. If it's natural law, I should operate on that basis and in that way. If it's supernatural law, I should operate on that basis and in that way. I decided it was the latter, and that decision has made a profound difference. (Including this small blessing: I'll end up in heaven one day!)
143. A lazy man can never take a day off.
144. One horse is a circus horse, bedecked in beautiful harness and peacock feathers, with cropped mane, painted hooves, and coiffed tail. Another horse stands on a butte above a canyon, muscles rippling under skin which has never felt harness of any kind. One is mostly harness and the other is mostly horse. (My sister, Joyce Winsor, gave me that forty-five years ago, or so; it fits a lot of situations!)
145. "Act high, think low; assume their worst, act your best." (Gertrude Himmelfarb; I didn't know Gertrude, but I love her for that sentence!)
146. Don't out-talk your experience.
147. The infallibly accurate test of your spiritual state? How long do you argue with God about something He's plainly told you to do.
148. Everybody has a problem. And the other man wants you to hear his, not vice versa.
149. If you keep on doing what you're doing, you'll keep on getting what you're getting.
150. *The guts carry the feet, not the other way around.* I don't know that I have ever heard a more apropos assessment of heart-power. I cannot locate the quote, but I think it was Wordsworth who put the same sentiment this way: "There is a strength in the power of love which will make a thing enduring which else would upset the brain or break the heart."
151. Some men would rather rule in hell than serve in heaven. They vividly hate to serve, and are only content when somebody is serving them. *And too many of them aren't even aware of such a proclivity.* Pray two things: (a) You will be joyously fulfilled in serving others in Christ's name, and (b) God will make you aware if you are deceived into believing you are---when you are not.
152. While walking one cold and windy morning (in Florida!), I came to this conclusion: Life "A" rejoices in the past, revels in the present, and reaches out to the future. Life "B" regrets the past, rejects today, and retreats from the future. Life "A" affirms life; life "B" is allergic to life. Yes, you can live life "A," *but only if you let God in on the deal!*

153. In matters of *style*, swim with the current; in matters of *principle*, stand like a rock. (Thomas Jefferson)
154. Two or three people today will attempt to get you to believe something bad about somebody else. Don't.
155. When a wise man dies, a library dies. How many books do you represent?
156. "Forget the former thing; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18, NIV) Claim that promise! Right now!
157. Never forget in the dark what God has told you in the light.
158. It is my observation that saints and sinners and psychotics are the same everywhere and at all times.
159. In the end, it will be very easy to forgive yourself for forgiving, but very difficult to forgive yourself for not forgiving.
160. Inquisitiveness is perhaps the surest sign of truly being alive. How could any man not be fascinated with this glorious, infinitely multifaceted universe, both in macrocosm and microsm, which God has given us! Pray you will never lose a fascination for life. God hasn't!
161. Looking for a sure-fire winning investment? Write a child a note of encouragement today.
162. When you re-locate, you can take everything with you. Except your influence.
163. Don't take yourself too seriously. Nobody else does. Somebody said it something like this: "If you knew how little people are thinking about you, you wouldn't worry what people are thinking about you."
164. It is impossible to serve God effectively with your fingers crossed.
165. Don't bore God's people! (One of my favorite mottos about preaching from I don't know where.)
166. Be positive. If you go fishing, go after a whale and take the tartar sauce. (I first heard that from Zig Ziglar.)
167. Make yourself indispensable to people. Then they'll feed you. (Pirl Steagall taught me that, though in different words.)
168. When you must choose, always choose the experience over the dollar.

169. Keep your funeral in mind. And the three personal characteristics you want the pastor to use as points for his sermon on the occasion. Go ahead and write the three words down and then live them out. Make the pastor a liar if he says something else. P. T. Barnum, of circus fame, once had a newspaper editor write his obituary before he died to see what the world was going to say about him after the inevitable event.
170. Who supplies the emotional warmth in your home? Does the emotional thermometer rise or fall when you enter the room?
171. Stick your hand out first when meeting a stranger. Or anybody else, for that matter! It really is not painful.
172. The big deal is not what if, but what is.
173. You won't be a very good quarterback if you think you look funny in cleats.
174. If your children don't admire you, who cares who else does?
175. Robert Dick Wilson, the famed Old Testament scholar, once said he could tell where his students were going in life by finding out whether they were big-Godders or little-Godders.
176. Don't tell your troubles to somebody who can't help you.
177. Increase the acreage of your soul today. That kind of land is inexpensive but extremely valuable.
178. It's never too late to fail!
179. Act as if your telephones (and e-mails!) are tapped. They all are, after all, because God is listening even if nobody else is! In fact, He's listening even if you're not talking or writing!
180. Assume the other guy wants to be your friend. No matter what his face says. Faces lie sometimes.
181. Become an answer to somebody's prayer today.
182. Don't worry about your critic. Think what he'd say if he knew everything about you! (I have heard that sentiment, if not the exact words, attributed to Mother Teresa who said them to Malcolm Muggeridge.)
183. "Do what is right. That way, time and God both are on your side." Not bad allies! (From Dr. T. B. Matson at Southwestern Seminary, in about 1962.)

184. It isn't all that important that your kids like you all the time. It is critically important that they respect you when they get grown.
185. Don't try to do anything 100 percent better. Do 100 things 1 percent better.
186. Life's hard by the yard, but it's a cinch by the inch.
187. The best way out is almost always through. Put another way: it's almost always too early to quit.
188. A rut is nothing but a grave with both ends knocked out.
189. Have you lost a lot lately? If so remember this profound truth: *When there is nothing left but God, that is when you find out that God alone is enough.*
190. The enemy of the best is rarely the worst; it is often the good.
191. Don't cut what can be untied.
192. Keep moving. It prevents rigor mortis from setting in.
193. Want to know the secret of a successful life? Don't read fifty books or go to fifty seminars. Do one thing. Here it is: *Don't screw up today.*
194. If the only tool you have in your tool-box is a hammer, you shouldn't be surprised if every problem looks like a nail. (That explains the "ministry" of too many pastors.)
195. Most jobs God calls us to are labor intensive. So, get with it! Sometimes the only solution to a problem is to throw huge gobs of energy against it in the name of the Lord.
196. Every age is full of opportunities; the problem is that most of us don't see them.
197. Generations have loved D. L. Moody's response to a pedagogue who criticized Moody's Sunday School teaching methodology even though Moody's ministry was exploding. Ever willing to learn from others, Moody asked the professional about his own techniques. Upon discovering that the man had no Sunday School at all, Moody quietly observed that he preferred his imperfect approach to the other man's non-existent approach.
198. It is better to fail in a great thing than to succeed in a little thing. (It is never to be forgotten, however, that he who serves God and His Kingdom, however weakly, can never be said to have failed.)

199. My favorite line of poetry? There are a hundred! And I often change my mind about that subject. In fact, I read a poem for the first time the other day by Robert Browning, *Evelyn Hope*, written in 1855, which is strikingly beautiful. How could a human string simple words together so as to create such beautiful images in one's mind, or moving sensations in one's soul! But listen to this one from John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, when he spoke of his hope and prayer:

What in me is dark
Illumine, what is low raise and support;
That to the height of this great argument
I may assert eternal Providence,
And justify the ways of God to man. (Emphasis added)

Think of it: every Christian is given the same essential task. We must all passionately assert God's eternal watch-care over His world and then attempt to explain, as best we can, why He has caused, or allowed, the events of our lives to have occurred.

200. There is almost always a mess on the way to a miracle. Don't let the mess distract you.

201. Every man's journey is marked by the gravestones of things (and people) he thought he couldn't live without.

202. I began my preaching ministry in south Texas, and therefore, oil field country. The older saints gave me this sage advice: "If you don't strike oil in twenty minutes, quit boring."

203. I heard a superb line long ago that went something like this: "It's good to change positions sometimes, even if you know it's going to produce pain. It's sorta like changing positions on a long wagon-ride---you'll get bruised, but at least, it'll be in a different place."

204. An expert on Shakespeare shouldn't stutter.

205. Richard LeGallienne once said, "There is too much beauty upon earth for a lonely man to bear."

206. Sometimes you're the windshield, sometimes you're the bug.

207. An excellent word of advice: "Be yourself minus 30%!"

208. A major university in this country did a survey that asked which football players, by position, were the most successful. The answer? The equipment managers! Service is in!

209. Jesus is coming back to earth on Monday. How do I know? He promised to return on a day "when

you think not.”

210. Motivation gets you going but habit keeps you there.
211. There are two ways to get into the top of an oak tree: climb it or sit on an acorn.
212. It is a great joy to have a friend who brings bad news with good intent.
213. Procrastinate later!
214. You don't have to be superior every day. Some days, simple survival is about the best you can do.
Take it!
215. Some boys once created a boy's club, built a tree-house which only “members” could enter, and--after lengthy debate and discussion--established three rules for membership: “(a) Nobody act big, (b) Nobody act little, (c) Everybody act medium.” Most of the trouble in human history was produced by somebody trying to act big.
216. The most important thing intelligent men can do is, once in a while, to restate the obvious. (I think that is from Orson Welles; in any case, it's superbly sage advice.)
217. I feel sorry for the guys
Who criticize and minimize
The other guys
Whose enterprise
Has made them rise
Above the guys
Who criticize and minimize
(James Cole)
218. “Honey, God don't sponsor no flops.” (A great line from the famed Negro singer Ethel Waters from her testimony when she sang to me and other students in seminary chapel in the early 60s.)
219. “There is an infinity of angles at which a man falls, and only one at which he stands.” (G. K. Chesterton; what a fantastic sermon in a single sentence! “Brevity is the soul of wit.” And wisdom.)
220. A Moonshine Hill aphorism for the egocentric: “If you could buy that man (they'd say “that ole boy”) for what he's worth and sell him for what he thinks he's worth, you could buy the best horse and saddle in the county.”

221. And this for the same sort of a man: “He’s sharp as a tack, *and twice as irritating.*” (It’s interesting that, when speaking, Moonshine Hillians never end a sentence with a rising inflection, that is, with an exclamation point. In their patois, the sentence is more powerful if it is spoken with a lowered voice and tails off at the end into a slow quiet growl.)
222. “I have the strength of ten men because my heart is pure.” Sir Galahad. (Compare that with Shakespeare’s “Thus conscience does make cowards of us all.”)
223. It’s always best to catch a fish before you try to filet it.
224. Since the subject constantly occupies your mind, why not go ahead and tell God, specifically, how He has disappointed you? Tell Him how many injustices He has allowed you to suffer. And how many times He didn’t come through for you. And how you detest so many aspects of His plan for your life. And how you are certainly not going to further any such supposed plan. And precisely how you’d run the universe if it were in your hands. I dare you.
225. If God bids you to step into the unknown, He’ll either build you a bridge---or give you wings.
226. God is always laying His benevolent ambush for somebody!
227. A dancing bear is a poor imitation of a ballerina, but you gotta admire his taste. He’s like the mule that ran in the Kentucky Derby: he has but little chance of winning but he has a right to be proud to be in such company.
228. “What are the bare facts?” we ask. There are no such things as “bare facts.” All facts are covered with something: prejudices, preconceptions, misperceptions, downright lies, whatever, but do not let us fool ourselves---they are all bedecked in clothes of some kind.
229. “Youth had been a habit of hers for so long she could never part with it.” (Rudyard Kipling)
230. The Bible is inspired by God and no other book shares it’s level of inspiration, but other books, if not “inspired” in the same way, still amaze with their powerful redeeming effect on us. I heard about a man who said he always felt like saying grace before reading Shakespeare. What books are you allowing to bless you?
231. Boy tells his mother he’s nine feet tall. Mom asks, “How do you know that?” Boy replies, “I made a ruler, and by my ruler, I’m nine feet tall.” A profound philosophical problem is manifest in that little story! Just for fun, how tall are you, anyway?
232. Bright an early every morning perform this sobering and sanity-producing bit of mental exercise:

declare bankruptcy on yourself and solvency on God! (Don't run off into the day's crush of responsibilities before that truth gets into your bone-marrow.)

233. I know a pastor who said about his predecessor: "I used to sit and listen to him create reality by the yard." Are you known best for communicating reality, or creating it, making it up as you go? Honestly! A church staff member said recently about his pastor: "I have learned that you have to take everything he says with a grain of salt." How horrible!
234. Getting weary? Remember this: ON THE DAY OF VICTORY NOBODY'S TIRED!
235. The incomparable NCAA football coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant, was once asked, in an interview: "Coach, your fellow-coaches say you can walk on water. Is that true? Bryant, in his quiet and gravely voice, demystified the moment by replying, "Well, I don't know about that, but I do know that I walk on earth earlier every morning than most of them do." Another of Bryant's memorable lines about coaching football: "One year, they name a street after you and the next year they chase you down it."
236. There is at least one somebody, and maybe several of them, who, before they fall asleep tonight, will think about you. And if they don't, God will! An old man, a total stranger, once stopped a man and shocked him by saying "Will you do me a favor? Will you think about me today? It would be a great blessing to me to know that somebody thought about me personally." And then he walked away.
237. God never comes next. God comes now. (Vance Havner)
238. The way to know God's will is to have no will in the matter. (F. B. Meyer once said that, but admit with me that "to have no will in the matter" is extremely difficult if I'm praying for my daughter's health!)
239. "Our crying sin is our laziness after God." (E. M. Bounds)
240. There is no deception like self-deception. Think of it: the man who would be incensed if the devil, or any man, deceived him, gleefully goes about deceiving himself! And that about the most important things in the universe!
241. A beleaguered head collegiate football coach (aren't they all at some point?) was once asked which alumnus was giving him the most trouble. His response: "That is like asking a man who's just been sawed in half which tooth of the saw did the most damage."
242. A small boy stole a flower from his neighbor's rose-bush. His mother, as all good mothers would, sent him back with the rose in his hand and an apology in his mouth. The neighbor woman said, "Son, you picked the wrong flower, but you picked the right Mama."

243. Victor Frankl stated the most significant fact about your life when he said: *It is not what happens to you that matters; it is how you respond to what happens to you that matters.* No human who lives out that principle can ever be truly victimized. Frankl learned that truth while in a German prison camp under Hitler, stripped of everything--including having the manuscript of his life's work scattered to the wind, literally---except his capacity to choose how he would respond to his experience.
244. The fish that got away always seems bigger than it was. And continues to grow through the years. It got off the hook. Let it go. Now, go fishing again.
245. God knows and loves and cares;
Nothing this truth can dim;
He always gives the very best
To those who leave the choice to Him.
246. A man tells his friend, upon viewing his beautifully coiffured garden, "Wow! You and God have done a wonderful job on the garden!" The gardener replies: "Yeah, but you should have seen what a mess it was in when God had it by Himself." The point? Strange as it sounds, God has chosen to seek our help with a lot He does. And that is our glory! We are "workmen together with (God)." (II Corinthians 6:1) What are you doing to help Him lately?
247. The eminent preacher / teacher J. Sidlow Baxter once said that a man's ministry should be the most fruitful between the ages of 60 and 70. That is true, he said, because he knows two things better than he's ever known them before: the Book (the Bible) and the Body (the church). I would add a third: the Boogeyman! (I also heard him say one than the late J. Sidlow Baxter!)
248. A new pastor arrived in town and a local service club, in jest, pinned on him a vocational-identity card. It read: HOG-CALLER. He responded, "Well, I've always been called a shepherd before, but I guess you people know the folk in this town better than I do."
249. Don't borrow trouble. Abraham Lincoln was forced, often, to cross the treacherous Fox river in his days of circuit riding as an attorney. When asked how he managed to get across the river, he said, "I've made it a habit never to cross the Fox River before I get to it." What Fox River have you been worrying about?
250. "In all unbelief, there are these two things: a good opinion of one's self and a bad opinion of God."
(Horatius Bonar)
251. Trust God! Remember that the Titanic was built by experts and the ark was built by a an amateur!
In fact, it was the first boat Noah---or anybody else--had ever builtz

252. The contents of a bottle do not change because it's location is changed. Did you really believe that your heart would be changed simply because you changed the location of your body? Or lived in a bigger house? Or had a million dollars? Or won the beauty pageant? Or...whatever else?
253. If it's not the truth don't say it, and if it's not right, don't do it. Period.
254. Don't ask the question if you can't stand the answer.
255. One ship drives east and another drives west
With the selfsame winds that blow.
 'Tis the set of the sails
 And not the gales
Which tells us the way we go.
- Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate,
As we voyage along through life.
 'Tis the set of a soul
 That decides its goal,
And not the calm or the strife.
 Ella Wheeler Wilcox
256. Dear Lord, I don't want the cheese; I just want out of the trap.
257. If you're feeling low, don't despair; the sun has a sinking spell every night, but it comes back up every morning.
258. It is not how old you are, but how you are old.
259. The lucky rabbit's foot didn't work for the rabbit. And, have you ever wondered why no psychic has ever published the winning lottery numbers before the drawing?
260. A sign in a Parisian hotel elevator: "Please leave your values at the desk." Do you still have possession of yours?
261. No man can ever say a Biblical principle failed in his life. What we can all say is this: There are Biblical principles which don't function in my life because I haven't pursued such principles with appropriate persistence and knowledge.
262. Did you hear about the Kamikaze pilot who flew sixteen missions without incident? That's commotion without commitment.

263. A true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going the wrong way.
264. You have to be involved to make an impact. Get off the sidelines and get into the game. No one is impressed with the won-lost record of the umpire.
265. About Christ, John Donne once said: "All knowledge that begins not, and ends not with His glory, is but a giddy, but a vertiginous circle, but an elaborate and exquisite ignorance."
266. "You can keep company with God only by running at full speed." (General Wm Booth, founder of The Salvation Army)
267. Did you hear the news! Humpty Dumpty was pushed!
268. Things change. And don't. The eminent English preacher, Dean Inge, once said that when Adam and Eve were banished from Eden, he said to her, "My dear, don't be troubled, we simply live in an age of transition."
269. No man drifts anywhere worth going.
270. Man is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. (E. M. Bounds)
271. My children: The only imperfect people on earth who are rearing perfect children.
272. The world at it's worst needs the church at her best. And my church at it's worst needs ME at my best!
273. "Oh, God, let those things move me that move You!" (A constant prayer of Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision, International. To the extent that God answers that prayer among His people, to that extent we will be useful to Him. For God to answer that prayer is the death of apathy and the death of apathy is the death of death---because apathy is the boundary-line between life and death!)
274. "Average" is the worst of the best and the best of the worst. My advice? What sin / failure / screw-up does the "average" person at your age and circumstance commit? *Don't do it! Be above average!*
275. Don't fool yourself: when you get old, you'll be just like you are now---only more so.
276. "If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, it's probably because it's growing over a cesspool." (Irma Bombeck)
277. A word of warning to females: If a knight in shining armor rides up looking for a bride, be wary; he probably is looking for somebody to feed the horse and clean the barn.

278. I have, for many years, collected epitaphs. My favorite: "I told y'all I was sick!"
279. Plant a shade tree under which you will never sit. When Anwar Sadat, the great Egyptian statesman, was assassinated, somebody asked a friend why he had so given himself to the peace process between Egypt and Israel and Sadat's friend said, "Because Anwar's life purpose, as he often said, was to plant shade trees under which he would never sit."
280. Social concern without soul concern is superficial concern.
281. Many women stay in marriage for the same reason Mrs. Noah stayed in the ark: the storm outside is worse than the stench inside.
282. Character is doing the right thing when nobody's watching.
283. If you must sin, sin on the grace side.
284. It is easy to count the seeds in an apple. It is impossible to count the apples in a seed. (Read that again, slowly, and pledge never to forget it!)
285. "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." (Shakespeare, *Twelfth Night*) And the opposite is also true: some men are born in trouble, some achieve trouble, and some have trouble thrust upon them!
286. If you're doing something you can't pray God's blessings on, stop it and run for your life!
287. Never put a period where God puts a comma.
288. Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.
289. Don't let your poor administration today become somebody else's emergency tomorrow.
290. The true servant has one desire: to make his master successful.
291. Don't quit! There's too much in the past to walk away from. There's too much in the present to give up on. And there's too much in the future to miss out on.
292. God answers your prayers in one of four ways: (a) Yes, (b) Yes, but not now, (c) No, because I have something better for you, and (d) You gotta be kidding!
293. Mark Twain once spoke for us all when he said, "It's not what I *don't* understand about the Bible

that bothers me. It's what I *do* understand about the Bible that bothers me.”

294. Frederick W. Robertson, the little-known prince of English preachers in an earlier day, once preached a sermon entitled, “Well-wishing is Not Well-doing.” How simple. How profound! A large sermon in a little title.
295. There was a very cautious man
 who never laughed nor cried.
He never risked, he never lost,
 he never won, nor tried.
And when one day he passed away
 his insurance was denied,
For since he never really lived,
 they claimed he never died!
296. What you become is more important than what you get; character is the coinage of eternity.
297. All growth is, in its very nature, a leap in the dark, a spontaneous act without benefit of experience.
So, don't be afraid!
298. A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but is rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.
299. Don't be so humble; you're not that great. (Golda Meir)
300. I know God will not give me anything I can't handle; I just wish He hadn't trusted me so much.
(Mother Teresa)
301. The *London Times* once ran a series entitled “What's Wrong With London?” and asked readers to offer their insights. G. K. Chesterton wrote a two-word note to the *Times*. “I am.” (Signed) G. K. Chesterton.” Really, that about says it all, doesn't it? Maybe I'm what's wrong with my town. And maybe you are what's wrong with yours. Well, at least admit with me that it is possible!
302. The greatest speech you're ever going to hear is the one you make to yourself every morning about what it is you're really living for.
303. The Supreme Fact: The will of God will never take you where the grace of God won't provide for you.
304. “Before your parents were born they were not as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before

you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your bedroom." (Bill Gates)

305. God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called.
306. Even a wise man thinks something foolish five minutes every day. The key is not to exceed the time limit.
307. Live like today's your last day. Even if it isn't, life is not a dress rehearsal. It's happening. As we speak!
308. Prepare the child for the path, not the path for the child. (Or, "Don't focus on teaching a child how to walk; teach him *where* to walk.")
309. Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard of conduct than anybody else does.
310. *If it is possible*, praise in public; criticize in private.
311. This is the final test of a good man: his kindness toward those who can not in any way benefit him.
312. The display of status symbols is often a result of low self-esteem. The truly competent man can easily project a calm, self-assured mien, without fakery. *That's because it is his natural habitat.* (The modern patois has it, "He's comfortable in his own skin.")
313. Send somebody a card of congratulation; they'll know what it's about.
314. Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be. (Abraham Lincoln said that, but, as I suspect he would agree, the earlier one makes up his mind to be happy, the easier the habit becomes.)
315. A literary critic once said of the famous Russian Alexander Solzhenitsyn, "Solzhenitsyn was arresting because he spoke of the truth as if it were true." The distinction seems a subtle one, but a very substantive one: it is one thing to state the truth and it is altogether another thing to speak the truth as if it is true.
316. As you get older, your heart ought to become softer, your brain sharper, and your skin thicker.
317. Quit worrying about yesterday's mess. Or failure. Or injustice. Or sin. Let it go! *The big deal is not why / when, but how / now!* Besides: If God didn't want to give you another chance, you wouldn't even be here anyway!

318. Antoine Boisen, one of America's earliest psychotherapists, had a theory, for which he became famous, to the effect that *our response to every new problem produces either a deeper conversion to Christ or some form of mental aberration*. So what is it for you today, a little more crazy or a little more converted?

319. About 97.6% of the trouble in the world is caused by somebody trying to be important.

320. Soak this one up:

But man, proud man,
Drest in a little brief authority,
Most ignorant of what he's most assured,
His glassy essence, like an angry ape,
Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven
As make the angels weep. (Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*)

321. There comes a time when you need to stop being sorry and be different.

322. I was arrested recently by a bumper-sticker on an old and well-worn car: "Don't let this car fool you; my riches are in heaven." And the experience evoked this thought: "A lot of nice new cars are bought with stolen money, money that really belongs to God." In fact, they could themselves justifiably wear a bumper-sticker that read: "This car purchased with money stolen from the most high God."

323. Be careful: If you're too open-minded, your brains will fall out.

324. Deal with it: going to church, while in itself a good thing---we have the apostolic word on that subject in Hebrews 10:23-25---no more makes you a Christian than going to a hen-house makes you a chicken. Or a car by going to a garage. Or intelligent because you walk down a university hallway. Got it?

325. To read and not reflect is to eat a meal and not digest it; it's fun for the moment, but no nutritional blessing occurs.

326. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

327. Your extremity is God's opportunity.

328. I don't have to survive!

329. Have you noticed: sin almost always puts on a beautiful mask. She does that because she's inherently ugly. Don't be fooled by the camouflage!
330. Prejudice is being down on what you're not up on.
331. What are you planning to give to your children? A heritage, remember, is better than an inheritance. Selah. (That means, "Pause and ponder that!")
332. A lie has speed, but truth has endurance.
333. Why is it that we always want to save the culture from everybody's sin but our own?
334. Further: why is it that we judge the other man's acts, but we judge our own intentions? And the infallible correlate is: the other man's acts are always bad and our intentions are always good.
335. A lot has been written about the rules for visiting others. The many kinds of visits demand different rules, obviously, but I like the ancient rule for pastoral visitation: "Make your visit like that of an angel: brief, bright, and bearing good news."
336. The idea is to die young as late in life as possible.
337. Swallow your pride. It'll be bitter going down, but when digested, will prove to be highly nutritious. And it's not fattening.
338. Chivalry? It's that instinct in a man to protect a woman from every man in the universe...except himself.
339. *The greater fear must always overcome the lesser fear.* You have two fears: one is that your new hair-do will be mussed up, the other is that the child will drown unless you rescue him. The greater fear must overcome the lesser one. You are afraid that you will be late for the geometry test, but you are also afraid that if you run the stop sign, you might never get to take another test of any kind in this life. The greater fear must overcome the lesser one. Now, what is the greatest of all fears? Obviously, the fear of displeasing God. *That greatest of all fears must overcome all other lesser fears.*
340. A brave man dies once. A coward dies ten thousand times.
341. Hellen Keller was once asked, "What could possibly be worse than being born blind?" Her response: "To be born with sight but without vision."
342. Let a man live so winsomely that many shall say upon his departure from this life: "When I get to heaven, I hope I get to live next door to him!"

343. The only ideal marriage is the one that didn't happen. Same with kids, cars and Cocker Spaniels.
The idea is not to get what you want, but to want what you get.
344. Facts themselves do not constitute truth. Facts are witnesses to the truth, but *enough facts, properly interpreted* gets you at the truth.
345. If you get into the mud with a hog, understand two inevitabilities; (a) you're both going to get dirty, and (b) *the hog doesn't care.*
346. Would you like to appear to be extremely stupid today? There are many ways to do it, most of them without much effort. We all have a natural inclination to take up permanent residence in Stupidville, but here's how to get there fast: *Start talking about stuff you don't have the facts about.* Presto blinko and you're there! Speed of light! God the Almighty puts it this way: "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." (Proverbs 18:13) Maybe it's the most thoroughly proven adage in the entire Bible.
347. You simply have to prioritize. You don't have enough time to do everything you, or somebody else, thinks you should. *If everything's important, nothing's important!*
348. During one of the most challenging of transition-times in my life, the Lord spoke quietly to my heart one morning: "Everybody on earth is, at this very moment, going through a transition of some sort. *Except Me!*" The last statement sent a huge quiet into my heart.
349. Life is not fair, but GOD IS MORE THAN FAIR!
350. If God has a fridge, your picture is on it! (Max Lucado)
351. Thomas Carlyle said of England at a certain point in her history: "Her stomach was well alive, but her soul was almost extinct." Pray that cannot justifiably be said about your culture. Or your church. Or the person in your mirror!
352. Never, never, give up! Ann Graham Lotz, when asked how her parents, Billy and Ruth Graham, had lived such great lives, said: "They both made a lot of right decisions, and they kept on making them for a lot of years."
353. If you gotta kiss a frog, go ahead and get it over with. Chances are great he ain't going to get any prettier.
354. A small boy memorized his Bible verse which focused on God's exaltation like this: "The Lord is greatly *exhausted.*" Aren't you glad He's not!

355. Look: stop worrying about what somebody's saying about you. Here's the big rule: TAKE CARE OF YOUR CHARACTER AND GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR REPUTATION.
356. Another big rule: use things and enjoy people, *never the reverse!*
357. Has someone told you that what you do on this mundane thing called "today" is not important? Then remember this: *EVERY STEP YOU TAKE PRODUCES CHORDS THAT WILL VIBRATE FOR ALL ETERNITY!*
358. Did you ever read a sentence and think: "God could well have put that in the Bible." Truth be told, almost always God has done so---but in different verbal clothing. How about this one from Shakespeare: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings." That is quintessential wisdom, and, as many Biblical passages attest, thoroughly Christian. (Memorize Shakespeare's line; I promise you it will come in handy!)
359. "Keep your eyes open before marriage, half shut afterwards." (Ben Franklin)
360. Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional.
361. Don't tell God how big your problems are. Tell your problems how big your God is.
362. Marriage is a process by means of which God cures a man of his pride and a woman of her vanty---without anesthesia.
363. If you're living as if God doesn't exist, you better be right!
364. I kept a copy of a copy of the following on my desk for many years: "FIFTY STEPS IN ACCOMPLISHING THE WILL OF GOD: (1) Do the right thing. (2) Do the right thing in the right way. (3) Do the right thing in the right way to please God. The other 47 don't count."
365. The celebrated French mystic, Fenelon, once said: "If God bores you, tell Him that He bores you, that you prefer the vilest amusements to His presence, that you only feel at your ease when you are far from Him."
366. To the life that has seized on content, geography seems but accident. It doesn't matter *where* you live if you know *why* you live.
367. I bet on life and won!
368. America! What a country! An American entrepreneur was once asked what his definition of "social

justice” was. His quick reply: “Social justice is the process of giving everyone an equal opportunity to become unequal.” If you---as an American---ask your country for more than an opportunity, then you are asking too much.

369. It’s better to be a first-rate version of yourself than a second-rate version of anybody else!

370. An old and obvious truth: “The man who seeks revenge had better dig two graves.”

371. *Nothing becomes dynamic until it becomes specific!* That works in prayer, establishing goals of every sort, preaching, audibling at the line of scrimmage in football, asking a girl out for a date or a boss for a raise! Making it specific obeys that famous bumper-sticker dictum: “Eschew obfuscation!” (Check the dictionary!) Or, as the Bible puts it, “For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?” (I Corinthians 14:8)

372. Great truths, immense truths, yea verily, eternal truths, can be couched in small questions: G. K. Chesterton once asked, “If my children wake up on Christmas morning and have somebody to thank for putting candy in their stocking, have I no one to thank for putting two feet into mine?”

373. *Don’t be fooled: your net worth and your self worth are entirely two different things, and very rarely have any connection at all! And the second is vastly more important than the first.*

374. I once heard Dr. Henry Kissinger say, “If you think responsibility is hard to bear, you ought to try bearing irresponsibility.”

After a lifetime of observing both types---the responsible and the irresponsible---and after forty-years-plus counseling both types, I agree with Dr. Kissinger’s observation: The irresponsible set out thinking theirs is the fun way and discover it is the fatal way. Whatever the responsible think at the beginning of the journey, at the end they discover that their way is the fulfilling way.

375. Sit still and ponder the immense consequences of this perception: “Not everything that can be counted counts. Much that cannot be counted counts greatly.” That was said by arguably the best counter who ever lived---Albert Einstein!

376. Shakespeare has the Duke Theseus, of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, say “The poet’s pen gives to airy nothing a location and a home.” Every good man gives “airy nothings”---truth, integrity, honor, valor---a location and a home. Without that “location and home,” such things remain, well, “airy nothings.” What’s living itself out from inside you?

377. Heed this warning: God is going to outlive all His pall-bearers!

378. God once said to me about His protection / punishment process: "If I choose to protect a man, a howitzer can't bring him down; if I choose to punish a man, I can bring him down with a bee-bee!"
379. There are, in truth, only two types of men. One says, "Most men don't do the right thing, so why should I?" The other says, "Most men don't do the right, so I want to be one of the few who do." Choose your response and, by doing so, define yourself.
380. Going through a rough spot? Absorb these old hymnal lines:
- The fire will not hurt thee,
I only design;
Thy dross to consume,
Thy gold to refine.
381. Take your work seriously, but not yourself.
382. The one thing that Christianity cannot be is moderately important. It is either cosmically important, or it is cosmically unimportant. Take your pick.
383. John Steinbeck, in his *The Fugitive*, has a riveting line for a lot of us male types: "A boy becomes a man when a man is needed." You heard it here first: The time has arrived! (His fugitive, by the way, did not. Become a man, that is.)
384. Has God told you to do something that you haven't done yet? Hear this: "Delayed obedience is deliberate disobedience."
385. Don't resign from that boring committee you're on! If you walk out you can't weigh in!
386. God? He is awake when He seems asleep. He is aware when He *seems* distant. He is at work when He *seems* unconcerned.
387. A shout in the mountains can sometimes start an avalanche.
388. You may only be one person in the world, but you may also be all the world to one person.
389. Look in the mirror, take a deep breath, and say, with conviction: "You are not going to be God's first lost cause in human history."
390. To be relevant, you have to say something that is eternally true. (Simone Weil)

391. He who marries the spirit of the age will soon be a widower.
392. Get up and get with it and don't wait until you feel like it. Here's the big rule: IT IS EASIER TO ACT YOURSELF INTO FEELING THAN TO FEEL YOURSELF INTO ACTING.
393. If you cannot be delivered out of your situation, be delivered in your situation. But in any case, be delivered. That way, you defeat the devil at his game--whatever it is.
394. A well-known (and prolific!) writer named Anonymous once wrote these lines which have fed me for years:
- From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth,
From the laziness that is content with half-truth,
From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,
Oh, God of Truth, deliver us.
395. What will you do with your suffering? The profoundest Christian view of suffering is, ultimately, this: *Suffering is God's invitation to intimacy with Him.*
396. Timid? Can't find your tongue to protest the wrong? Listen to what the famed Lutheran pastor Martin Niemoeller once said about the Nazis: "When they came for the Communists, I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a Communist. When they came for the Social Democrats, I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a Social Democrat. When they came for the Jews, I didn't speak up, because I was already in the concentration camp. But then nobody was left who could or wanted to protest."
397. Yes, I know that God wants us to work, to get things done, to achieve, but remember this: we're called human *beings*, not human *doings*.
398. A man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, but without hope, he is dead already.
399. I heard a good line years ago about theology, but which applies--obviously--to much more than theology. It went like this: "Too often bad theology is good theology with the em-FASS-iss on the wrong si-LAB-bul."
400. "He is no fool who gives away that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."
(Jim Elliot)
401. A man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man who only has an argument.

402. If you're too proud or busy to listen to other people, you will have the joy of discovering, all by yourself, that some mushrooms are poisonous. And that a lot of other innocent-looking things are, too.
403. Many a man has climbed the ladder of success only to discover it was leaning against the wrong wall.
404. Yes, life is sometimes difficult to understand, but remember: *WE LIVE LIFE FORWARD AND UNDERSTAND IT BACKWARD.*
405. Take care of your *character!* Lincoln once said that the shadow of a tree is what people perceive the tree to be, but the tree is the real thing. Shadows---depending on a lot of variables---change, but the actual tree---the real thing---stands inviolable all the while its shadow is changing.
406. I am not even absolutely positive it's true (although I am inclined to believe it is), and I don't know who said it, but I do know it bears pondering: THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS MENTAL ILLNESS, ONLY VARYING DEGREES OF IRRESPONSIBILITY.
407. Are you working to resolve the argument or to win it? In either case, God is listening.
408. Are you angry with yourself because of some good thing you didn't start doing ten years ago? What is it that, ten years from now, you will feel the same about?
409. This is hugely important: ***Because something is wrong does not automatically mean that somebody sinned.*** That's for (a) those people who need to feel guilty and so, believe that they are somehow responsible for every problem on the planet and for (b) those who want to make some perfectly innocent person feel guilty for having caused some problem about which they had nothing to do.
410. God won't ask how many friends you had; He'll ask how many people there are to whom you *were* a friend.
411. If you're tired of getting whippings, get the rod out of the hand of the one inflicting the pain. "How," do you ask? You have to be kidding! By behaving, of course! That works with both your fathers: the one on earth and the One in heaven!
412. If your faith fizzles at the finish it was faulty from the first!
413. If you *command* respect, you won't ever have to *demand* respect.
414. If you're wrestling a gorilla, you don't get to quit when you're tired; you have to keep on until he gets tired. (An excellent teacher of French at our school, *and a Mom*, Lisa Snyder, gave me that jewel!)

415. Dr. Vance Havner, inimitable preacher of yesteryear, often said this about preaching: “Good preaching will always produce either a shock or a charge; a shock if you’re living wrong and a charge if you’re living right.” Alas, too much preaching produces yawns.
416. If you’re a bored person it’s an inside job; you’re doing it to yourself.
417. Yes, I know: you haven’t walked out on the faith, but have you walked out on the *faithful*? Go home Sunday! They need you!
418. Don’t take the devil for a ride. Before long, he’ll want to do the driving.
419. In the end, people might not remember what you said, or what you did, what you looked like or where you lived, *but they will remember how you made them feel.*
420. Ponder the response of the Spartan mother whose son whined that his sword was too short to fight effectively. Levelling her eyes at him, she quietly said: “Take a step forward, son, and it will be long enough.”
421. An eminent leader says the key to leading all groups is to understand this principle: It is not the incompatibilities of the team members that count; it is the way leadership handles the incompatibilities that counts.
422. *“We can forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy is when adults are afraid of the light.” Plato*
423. Every new baby is God’s opinion that the human race should continue. (Carl Sandburg)
424. If you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything.
425. People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. Caring trumps knowing.
426. If God is your first resource He won’t have to be your last resort.
427. “Whom the gods would destroy, they first make prideful.” (Even the Greek mythologists got it right! How observant they were!)
428. Deal with it: money can’t buy class.
429. Opportunities are never lost; someone else will take the ones you miss.

430. Feeling your power? Remember Shakespeare's instructive line: "It is excellent to have a giant's strength; but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant."

THE COWBOYS TOP TEN

431. Life ain't 'bout how fast you run, or how high you climb, it's how well you bounce.

432. Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.

433. Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

434. If you get to thinkin' you're a person of influence, try ordering somebody else's dog around.

435. Always drink upstream from the herd.

436. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' him back in.

437. Remember: A bumble-bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

438. Never corner something that you know's bigger'n you.

439. It don't take a very big cowpoke to carry a grudge.

440. Don't send your mule to buy a plow.

441. Some unknown but keen observer of church life said that, alas, the biography of too many Christians is an initial spasm resulting in chronic inertia.

442. On the day of victory nobody's tired!

443. Do what you can with what you have where you are for the glory of God.

444. He is your best friend who keeps on giving you opportunities to do good.

445. Life is tough. But it's really tough if you're stupid. (John Wayne)

446. Rules without relationship will produce rebellion. Relationships without rules will produce irresponsibility. (Josh McDowell)

447. "Everyone is born a genius. Living life, however, de-geniuses too many of us." (Buckminster Fuller)

448. A sentence of astounding implications, engraved on the central administration building of my alma mater: “The preservers of culture are as heroic as it’s makers.”
449. Thinking of giving up? Consider the lowly postage stamp: It secures it’s place in history---sometimes a terribly crucial place in history!---simply by hanging on.
450. “If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my children may live in peace.” (Thomas Paine)
451. “Don’t taunt the gator until you’ve crossed the creek.”
452. Some men die in the flood; others go up in flames, But most men die inch by inch in play at little games.
453. “Tis mad idolatry to make the service greater than the god.” (Shakespeare)
454. Wayne Gretzky, arguably the best ice-hockey player in history, often said: “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.”
455. Have you messed up? Life, alas, doesn’t have a reset button. *But it does have a restart button. It’s called “morning,” and it happens every day. Thank God for it, punch it, and leave your mess behind. Now!*
456. God gave us memories so we can have roses in December. (James Barrie)
457. A sentence from the ancient past with powerful current implications: “There is some way the soul works that you cannot see truth if you give up telling it.”
458. Among my collection of interesting (and actual!) church names: *The Noodle Baptist Church, The Meeker Baptist Church, The Utopia Baptist Church, The Fair Play Baptist Church, The Harmony Baptist Church (and then, a few years later, down the street: The New Harmony Baptist Church!), and the Little Hope Baptist Church. “Little” hope? “Why not “Big” hope? Or “Superb” hope? Or “Grand” hope? Even “Some” hope, but “little?” Wow!*
459. Is God still interesting to you? If not, this recently-read line is for you: “In some ways, to draw the conclusion that God alone is the perpetual novelty is to state the obvious.” (Ravi Zacharias)
460. Be gracious! Mark Twain once said that if you feed a dog he won’t bite you, which, Twain said, is the principal difference between a man and a dog.
461. You have to say “no” to the bad stuff to say “yes” to the good stuff, and you have to say “no” to the

little stuff to say “yes” to the big stuff. You just simply cannot say “yes” to it all.

462. Some people think they see new horizons when they’re only looking up at the ridge of a rut.

463. Remember that sometimes silence is the best answer.

464. A lot of good judgment comes from making bad judgments.

465. Have you been ashamed lately? Blushed at the thought of some moral failure? Good! As Stuart Barton Babbage once said, “Man is the only animal that blushes, or needs to.”

As long as a sinning man can blush and respond properly to his blush, there is hope. I never knew a Cocker Spaniel to blush. Or who should have, no matter how destructive his behavior. He was just being, well, a dog! But hear Jeremiah say to Israel: “You have had a harlot’s forehead; you refuse to be ashamed.” (Jeremiah 3:3) An entire nation incapable of blushing! That could well serve as old Israel’s epitaph.

466. I don’t know the author of this sentiment, but it is highly ponderable: “The Christian religion has not been tried and failed; it has been tried, found difficult, and been abandoned.” Too true for too many!

467. Is the going rough? It’s God’s way, if not to cause such a season, to sovereignly allow it. *He gives us tests to produce testimonies through our lives, and He gives us messes to produce messages through our lives!*

468. On that same theme, while reading last night in an old literature book, I came across some lines written by Francis Bacon in 1625:

Prosperity is the blessing of the Old Testament; adversity is the blessing of the New, which carrieth the greater benediction and the clearer evidence of God’s favor. Yet, even in the Old Testament, if you listen to David’s harp you shall hear as many hearse-like airs as carols; and the pencil of the Holy Ghost hath labored more in describing the afflictions of Job than the felicities of Solomon.... Certainly virtue is like precious odors, most fragrant when they are incensed or crushed, *for prosperity doth best discover vice, but adversity doth best discover virtue.* (Italics mine.)

469. My definition of the Christian life: I give as much of me as I know today to as much of Him as I know of me today. *Which, since I know more of me every day and more of Him every day, guarantees that my walk with Him will be dynamic and not dormant! It’s not like an apendectomy: one time doesn’t do it!*

470. If you make a hard bed for yourself, you’ll be turning over a lot at night!

471. If you are looking in the right place you probably won't turn the wrong way.
472. Be certain to thank God in the good times. If we forget His goodness, sometimes He allows us a patch of darkness in order to better appreciate His light.
473. Another perspective on gratitude: an unknown poet said he felt sorry for himself because he had no shoes until he met a man who had no feet. And Gilbert K. Chesterton once asked: "If it is perfectly appropriate for a child to thank God he finds sox in his Christmas stockings, why should it be thought strange that he thanked God for feet to put into his socks?"
474. Cool it! Why? Because "he that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls." (Prov. 25:28; the wall of the ancient city was its protection, so, if I am out-of-control angry, I am exposed to devastation as such a city would be.) And never forget God's (twice-asked) question to Jonah: "Doest thou well to be angry?" How profound and penetrating a question!
475. If you think your attitude does not matter, hear this: According to a report by a nationally-known business research firm, 94% of all Fortune 500 executives attributed their success more to attitude than anything else. The same report indicated that the top executives were hired based on the following criteria:
- 5%-Availability
 - 5%-Adaptability
 - 10%-Ability
 - 10%-Appearance
 - 70%-Attitude
476. The early missionary, David Livingstone, once said, "I will go any place on earth provided it is forward."
477. "Pride is the source of all vice and humility is the source of all virtue." (F. B. Meyer)
478. Take the tough job! "Some people want to serve Jesus within sound of a chapel bell; I want to build a rescue mission within a yard of hell." (C. T. Studd)
479. Losers make promises; winners make commitments.
480. The rule is: people are interested in people because people are interested in people. Which being interpreted is: if I want you to be interested in me, then I have to be interested in you! And vice versa! There are exceptions to this rule, but they are rare.

481. You and God make a majority! (Actually, God makes a majority by Himself, so your job is mostly just to hang on!)
482. Genius is the capacity of paying attention to the details.
483. Add a single new word to your vocabulary today. And use it. Today. The world has enough dull speech!
484. What is love? I've read scores of definitions, but let me give you two I like most, both from young children: (a) "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on cologne and they go out and smell each other!" (b) "When somebody loves you, the way they say your name is different. *You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.*"
485. Sin takes you farther than you wanted to go. And keeps you there longer than you wanted to stay.
486. Thomas Carlyle, arguably the all-time authority on the French revolution, was once asked who produced it. His answer: "Every Frenchman who did not do his duty to his country."
487. "If you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less." (General Eric Shinseki, U. S. Army chief of Staff, quoted by Stephen M. R. Covey)
488. No one can ruin your day without your permission.
489. Get on with life. You are never going to "have it all together." Deal with it!
490. Look for opportunities, not guarantees.
491. George Fox, the famed Quaker of yesterday once said: "Every Quaker (he said "Friend") ought to illuminate the countryside for ten miles."
492. "The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of man. His compulsion is our liberation."
(C. S. Lewis)
493. Sometimes it is a *delight* to do the will of God. Sometimes it is a *discipline* to do the will of God. It is always a *deliverance* to do the will of God.
494. From the cowardice that flees all truth,
From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,
From the laziness that will not seek new truth
Oh, God of truth, deliver us.

495. Sometimes the majority only means all the fools are on one side.
496. A lie can get around the earth before the truth gets out of sight. Yes, that's true, but here's a huge caveat: a lie has distance but truth has staying power.
497. I don't have to attend every argument I'm invited to.
498. "The fundamental form of human stupidity is forgetting what we were trying to do in the first place." (Frederick Wilhelm Nietzsche)
499. Gear up, don't give up!
500. Shoe salesman is sent to a third-world country. Writes back in two weeks: "Nobody wears shoes here; terrible situation." Two weeks later, after reconsidering the situation(!), he sends another note to the home office: "Nobody here has shoes; fantastic market possibilities! Send fifty dozen!"
501. "If you're going through hell, keep on going." (Winston Churchill)
502. Bitterness is drinking poison every day thinking somebody else is going to die of it.
503. Lot of people praising your name lately? Corrie Ten Boom was once asked how she handled all the applause for her vast gospel fruitage. Her answer: "That donkey that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on His "Triumphal Entry," with people shouting hallelujahs and throwing palm brnches at his feet, do you think he thought it was all about him?"
504. Today is the youngest you're ever going to be; live like it.
505. Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want.
506. "If you don't know where you're going, you might wind up somewhere else." (Yogi Berra)
507. "If you're going through hell, keep going." (Winston Churchill)
508. "Today is the youngest you're ever going to be. Live like it.
509. Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want.
510. "If you don't know where you're going, you might wind up somewhere else." (Yogi Berra)
511. Worrying about what you don't have? A recent study indicates that if you have a roof over your

head, clothes on your back, and food in the fridge, you're wealthier than 75% of the people on the planet. If you have that and money (any money!) in your pocket, you're wealthier than 87% of all the people on the planet. And if you add a computer, that puts you in the top 1% of wealth on the earth. My conclusion to all that? If you're reading this, you're very probably---relatively---living large and in charge! Go get 'em!

512. A kindred thought: NOBODY DRIFTS CLOSER TO GOD. Start paddling against the stream. Immediately!

513. The biggest and best *axiom* ever conceived, with labyrinthine implications which run out to the depth and height and width and breadth of all life: ALL THINGS THAT YOU WOULD THAT MEN SHOULD DO UNTO YOU, DO YOU EVEN SO TO THEM.

514. The biggest and best *action* ever taken: this morning I talked with my young yard man about his spiritual life. He was wearing a beautiful golden crucifix about his neck and said, "Jesus is always on my chest; I don't go anywhere without Him!" I said, "Well, that's good, but He wants to be *inside* your chest." I then quoted Revelation 3:20, where Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, and if any man hears my voice and opens the door (of his heart), I will come in and sup (eat, i.e., have fellowship) with him." He indicated, following my explanation, that he wanted to take up Jesus' offer and now Jesus is both *on* his chest and *inside* it.

Jesus wants to have the same relationship with you. Today. Don't make it complex. And don't put it off. If you practice every bit of wisdom in these pages for a lifetime, but miss Him, His Father God will never call you wise. And His assessment is all that counts!

Ponder again the unfathomable depths of what John Donne once said: "All knowledge that begins not, and ends not with His glory, is but a giddy, but a vertiginous circle, but an elaborate and exquisite ignorance." (James Stewart, *Heralds of God*, Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1949, p. 61)

515. TO RETURN TO OUR STARTING PLACE: WHEN YOU WERE BORN, YOU WERE CRYING AND EVERYBODY ELSE WAS SMILING. LIVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT, WHEN YOU DIE, YOU'LL BE SMILING AND EVERYBODY ELSE WILL BE CRYING.