



# F. Y. C.

## For Your Consideration

❖ MAY 2018 ❖

### What I Treasure Most

Usually, when discussing what we treasure, our thoughts turn to what we possess. The list contains such things as houses, land, money, and the finer things in life. But these are all transitory. They will pass away with time or when we pass on.

#### What Do I Treasure Most?

Relationships where love is the glue that binds one to another.  
Fame, fortune, status, or possessions, play no part in them.

##### With God

Knowing Him and loving Him because He first loved me.

##### With Jesus Christ

Who loved me enough to die that I might live. And I love Him in return.

##### With Brethren

Those with whom I share a common faith and hope; and where love for one another abounds.

##### With Friends

Those with whom some affinity is found. Where love causes one to look for the good in others, while ignoring imperfections.

##### With Family

Those with whom I have a physical bond. Where there is care and concern for one another.

#### Rich – Poor – Young – Old – Male – Female – Nationality – Race

May our treasured relationships transcend all of these distinctions.

*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:10-12

***“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”***

Luke 12:34



**We don't get to choose our enemies, but we do choose our friends.**

*The righteous should choose his friends carefully,  
For the way of the wicked leads them astray.*

Proverbs 12:26 NKJV

# Thoughts of Success and Failure

Unless one is convinced that he can succeed, he never will. His own thought process will insure failure. It's not that he can't succeed, he just believes he can't. Our thoughts can either help us succeed or cause us to fail.

When ballplayers give up on winning, seeking only to avoid defeat—their chance of winning fades. When they concentrate only on defense and not on offense, they will never score. Winners think in terms of “we can do it.” Good players don't pass the ball to another, so they won't be responsible for the loss; they want the ball in their hands so they can help the team win. Winners visualize themselves succeeding. Losers can only see themselves failing.

This winning attitude affects everything we do in life. We must think “I can!” If we think we will never be able to be a good worker, or mate, or parent, we give up on succeeding and guarantee failure. If we think we can't be a good Christian, we throw in the towel, assuring defeat.

Being unable to visualize success plagued God's people in the Old Testament. The children of Israel failed to see how they could take over the promised land. Joshua and Caleb saw victory, the others saw only insurmountable odds. *“Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.”*<sup>1</sup> How sad. They believed they couldn't, so they were defeated without trying. Their negative thinking was the cause of their failure.

The soldiers refused to battle Goliath, fearing failure. David believed that someone needed to defeat the giant—and he believed he could. In the end the difficult task was done by one who thought he could.

The Apostle Paul believed he could succeed. *“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”*<sup>2</sup> This is what drove him on in the face of much adversity. He believed that with the help of God he could not lose. He didn't just try to keep converts from falling away, but he kept going to new places to spread the Gospel, increasing the number of disciples. *“And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation.”*<sup>3</sup> He believed that the crown of life was attainable in spite of all the difficulties. Not only could he receive it, but all who served the Lord faithfully could receive it.

Today, congregations must believe they can succeed in building up the body of believers, spiritually and in numbers. They must believe that they can reach the loss. They must believe that progress can be made. They must visualize success. Such vision becomes the basis for succeeding. Once a church focuses only on “holding down the losses”—rather than working to make gains, it loses its strength and it's will to succeed.

You see, believing it can be done causes one to persevere, and perseverance is what it takes to succeed.

May each congregation be filled with members who have a winning attitude, filled with visions of success. May there be no doubters or defeatists in the number.

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**“Yes I Can!”**

**vs.**

**“No I Can't!”**

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<sup>1</sup> NUMBERS 14:1; <sup>2</sup> PHILIPPIANS 4:13; <sup>3</sup> ROMANS 15:20

# TEMPTATION

*Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.*

James 1:13-16

James uses the figure of human reproduction as a simile to explain how one becomes guilty of sin. **He states emphatically that God is not the source of temptation.**

## THE SIMILARITIES

### STRONG DESIRE

The desire within to reproduce the human race draws men and women together.

**The desire within to sin draws a person to temptation.**

### UNION

When a man and woman come together a baby is conceived.

**When one yields to temptation sin is conceived.**

### BIRTH

A baby is born

**Sin is "born" (comes alive).**

### RESULT

A baby born results in physical life.

**Sin, once alive, results in spiritual death.**



**How important it is to control strong desires.**

When desires are held in check, there is no union(yielding), and no offspring (sin).

**How important it is to keep your heart and mind pure.**

*Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.*

Philippians 4:8-9

**Succinctly  
Put**

**QUESTION:** Who is my neighbor? Luke 10:29

**ANSWER:** The one who shows mercy. Luke 10:37

**MERCY:** (eleos) "is the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it."

—Vines Expository Greek Dictionary



# Ponder 'This

# Tis So True

## **Fear of criticism is the kiss of death in the courtship of accomplishment.**

*There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, "He is a good man"; others were saying, "No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray." Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.*

John 7:12-13



## **Your companions are like buttons on the elevator. They will either take you up or they will take you down.**

*Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."*

1 Corinthians 15:33

*Do not associate with a man given to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself.*

Proverbs 22:24-25

*Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.*

Romans 12:16



## **Quite often when a man thinks his mind is getting broader, it's only his conscience stretching.**

*To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.*

Titus 1:15

*Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless."*

1 Corinthians 3:18-20

Singing with the Understanding . . .



1 Corinthians 14:15

## **How Shall the Young Secure**

Isaac Watts

How shall the young secure their hearts,

And guard their lives from sin?

Thy word the choicest rules imparts

To keep the conscience clean.

When once it enters to the mind,  
It spreads such light abroad,

The meanest souls instruction find,  
And raise their thoughts to God.

'Tis like the sun, a heav'nly light,

That guides us all the day;

And through the dangers of the night,  
A lamp to lead our way.

The men that keep thy law with care,  
And meditate thy word,

Grow wiser than their teachers are,  
And better know the Lord.

Thy precepts make me truly wise:

I hate the sinner's road;

I hate my own vain thoughts that rise,  
But love thy law, my God.

The starry heavens thy rule obey,

The earth maintains her place;

And these thy servants night and day  
Thy skill and power express.

But still thy law and gospel, Lord,

Have lessons more divine;

Not earth stands firmer than thy word,  
Nor stars so nobly shine.

Thy word is everlasting truth,

How pure is every page!

That holy book shall guide our youth,  
And well support our age.

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