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*According to
Your Faith*





*Take heart, daughter,
he said, your faith
has healed you.*

Matthew 9:22

*According to your
faith will it be
done unto you.*

Matthew 9:29





Figuring It Out

Sometimes we have to scratch our head
and try to figure out
Why we are here on planet earth
and what life's all about.
It seems some folks know how to climb
the ladder of success
While other folks from down below
just watch 'em climb, I guess.

It seems God gives to us a choice
to either stand up tall
Or be a couch potato
and do nothing good at all.
So if you're in that place in life
just wond'ring what to do
Put your small hand in God's big Hand.
He has good news for you.

Behind the Scenes

God does some things behind the scenes
that we don't know about--
Sometimes we wonder, "Why this, Lord?"
and we begin to doubt
About the things that come our way
and rankle us a tad
Because it makes no sense to us
so we start feeling bad.

But now that I have lived a while
sometimes I plainly see
Some things that happened in the past
were much the best for me.
God knows what He is doing
and sometimes it's hard to tell
The things He's working in our lives
and does it oh, so well.

So if at times your way seems tough
and troubles come your way
Remember God's preparing you
to live with Him
some day.

*And we know that
in all things God
works for the good of
those who love him
Romans 8:28*



*Morning
Time*



When you wake up in the morning
and you kinda' scratch your head
Do you greet the day with gladness
thanking God you are not dead?
I think contented folks who smile
and have a happy heart
May well prolong their days on earth
if they will do their part.

It's kinda' strange how attitudes
affect the way we feel,
They even might affect the way
that we digest a meal.
The stomach may appreciate
a happy heart as well
So all our parts can smoothly run.
Sometimes it's hard to tell

If stress can do a person in
so things don't work quite right
And folks will end up counting sheep
to get to sleep at night.
So keep the dial of your heart
tuned in to happy stuff--
You may not need those phantom sheep
to live life up to snuff.

*God Has
A Plan
for You*



Sometimes when we get kinda' old
and feeling pretty tired
We feel our work on earth is done;
we really aren't inspired—
But did you know if you're alive
God has a plan for you?
Until you walk those streets of gold
there's stuff that you can do.

God puts a premium on smiles
when they reflect God's love,
The folks who smile a lot will find
it fits just like a glove.
There's nothing like the love of God
to brighten up one's day,
God doesn't care if you are young
or if you're old and gray.

So don't get grumpy when you're old
and don't complain a lot
But try to keep on smiling
with all the strength you've got.
And be prepared to feel God near
and hear His loving Voice
For all the folks who live for Him
will feel their heart rejoice.

Faith

Some people have a lot of faith,
Some others almost none,
That could explain why there are folks
Who have a lot of fun.

The folks who have their faith in God
And trust to Him their life
Will find He drains some pressures off
That want to cause us strife.

“According to your faith,” my friend,
“So be it unto you,”
And that’s straight from the Bible
So we know that it is true.

To build your faith it helps to read
Some verses from God’s Book
And there are lots and lots of them
If you’ll just take a look.



A favorite is of Jonah
In the belly of the whale,
And God was watching while he took
That under-water sail.
And Daniel in the lion's den
Should get your interest up—
At times God uses different ways
To fill a fellow's cup.

The fiery furnace held no fear
For three young Hebrew men
For Jesus stood beside them
So no flames could harm them then.
How Noah and his family
Could build that big old ark
Preserving animals and birds
Though it was cold and dark.

Read of David and Goliath,
And of Paul and Silas, too,
Remembering they're not fiction
But all of them are true.
There is story after story
Written down to help us cope
That really will amaze you
And increase your faith and hope.

*Then he touched their eyes and said,
"According to your faith will it be
done to you." Matthew 9:29*

Change

A lot of folks who've lived for years
 have seen a lot of change
And most of it is really nice
 but some is kinda' strange.
The horse and buggy days are gone,
 so now we drive a car
To get us where we wanna' go
 though it is near or far.

The clothes we wear don't look the same,
 a lot are wash and wear;
Some folks take medicines galore
 to help with wear and tear.
Of course fast foods are popular
 so folks don't have to cook,
They'd rather watch a movie
 or curl up with a good book.

Computers make folks change a lot,
 now we don't need a stamp
For emails are so fast to write
 we don't get writer's cramp.
Our air conditioned rooms are great,
 our frozen foods are nice,
When we microwave leftover food
 we eat for half the price.

Oh, there are lots of changes
that will come our way each year
And though sometimes we shift our gears,
one thing is very clear
We serve a God who changes not,
His Word's the same today--
We know the Ten Commandments
are forever here to stay.

So don't be fooled by trifling stuff
that wants to make you mod,
It's better far to keep your faith
till you're at Home with God.



Methuselah

I've thought about Methuselah
 who lived so many years,
He must have thought on happy stuff
 and didn't dwell on fears.
Nine hundred sixty nine, ya' know,
 are lots of years to live;
He must have talked to God a lot
 and knew how to forgive.

He may have exercised each day
 and ate good healthy food
For if he ate a lot of junk
 he might have come unglued.
I would doubt that he ate pizza
 and other greasy stuff--
Could he have eaten cornbread
 if times got kinda' tough?

I'm not sure what his diet was
 that made him live so long
But I am sure he loved the Lord
 who gave his heart a song.
Another thing that might have helped
 was there was no TV
For couch potatoes can die off
 if that is all they see.

Back then computers were unknown
and microwaves were nil,
No planes were flying overhead,
the atmosphere was still,
I'm sure he lived a different life
than we folks do today
And must have had great peace of mind
that made him want to stay.

So if we'd live a long, long time,
I wonder could it be
We oughta' keep a song inside
that kinda' sets us free?
If we love God with all our heart
and serve Him every day
It could be He would let us live
until we're old and gray.



Genesis 5:21-27

Flower Gardens

When people plant their flowerbeds
they give them lots of care
And hope the seeds put in the ground
will come up bright and fair.
They chop the soil and water it
and even fertilize
Expecting that some blossoms rare
will soon materialize.

And so these folks will watch and wait
to see some shoots of green
And when they finally do come up
its such a lovely scene.
I'm glad the Lord made flowers,
and He splashed on colors rare
So folks would love to grow 'em,
and maybe even share.



Another thing amazes me
is how some plants will grow
And come up through some little cracks
with not much room ya' know.
It must be God knows how to plant
and does it with great care
And so if He has planted them,
they can grow anywhere.

It's kinda' like some people
who are penniless and poor
And yet they somehow can squeak by
although they wish for more.
So if you're in a flowerbed
or growing through a crack
Keep blooming where you're planted
for the Lord is keeping track.





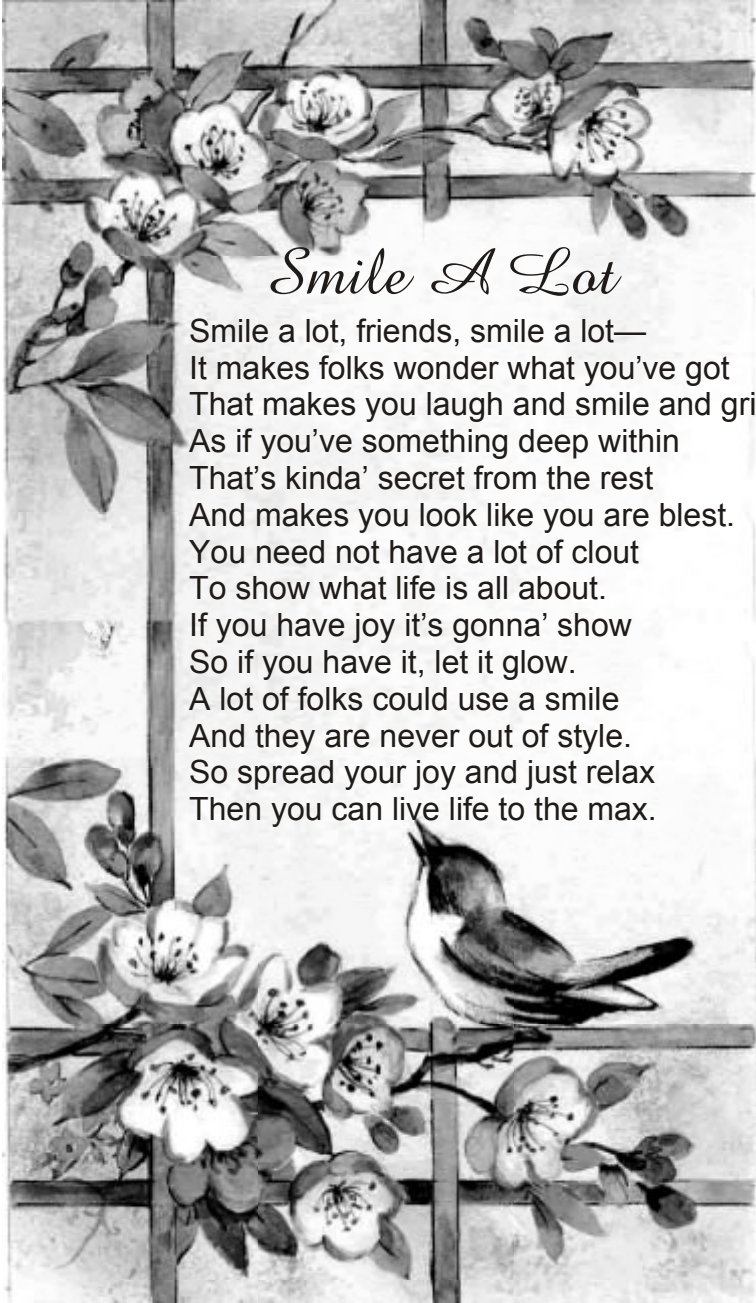
Always There

Don't wait until disaster strikes
before you start to pray--
God really likes to keep in touch
with you each passing day.
He wants to know when times are good
and also when they're tough
So He can know when you need help
and give you grace enough.

At times it seems God's far away,
not knowing where we are,
But be assured He always knows
if we are near or far.
Some folks will try to hide from God
but it's a waste of time,
He sees us if we're young or old,
or if we're in our prime.

Don't hesitate to talk to God,
don't put your life on "hold"
He wants you to commune with Him
e'en if the winds blow cold.
It's awfully nice to hunker down
in His great love and care;
No matter what life hands to us
our God is always there.

*Because He is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken Psalm 16.8*



Smile A Lot

Smile a lot, friends, smile a lot—
It makes folks wonder what you've got
That makes you laugh and smile and grin
As if you've something deep within
That's kinda' secret from the rest
And makes you look like you are blest.
You need not have a lot of clout
To show what life is all about.
If you have joy it's gonna' show
So if you have it, let it glow.
A lot of folks could use a smile
And they are never out of style.
So spread your joy and just relax
Then you can live life to the max.

Make 'em Happy

If someone comes across your path
Give them a word of cheer,
It may be they have sought you out
Because of what they'd hear.

Don't spread a word of gossip
But encourage them a tad,
For they may need encouragement
If they are feeling bad.

It's good to make folks happy
And take worry off their chest
Some folks just have a special knack--
It's what they do the best.



Cold Winds



Some days are kinda'
tough, ya' know,
when things don't go just right,
It seems no matter what we do
it seems we feel uptight.
So what's a guy supposed to do
if he has lost his song?
It may be some would tell us
that we've done something wrong.

But if we think on it a tad
that may not be the case,
It could be we should talk to God
about more love and grace.
There is no easy answer
when life's winds are blowing cold
And sometimes they seem stronger
when we are growing old.

We really need to hunker down
in God's great love and care
And tell Him all our troubles
and then just leave them there.
He is good at solving problems
and loves to hear our voice,
And if we'll put our hand in His
He'll make our heart rejoice.

*Come to me all who are weary and burdened
and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*



When you're tired and discouraged
do you take the time to look
And see if there's an answer
in God's most Holy Book?
One verse I really like a lot,
though not of too much length
Says simply when we have God's joy
that it will give us strength.

There are some other nuggets
I find scattered here and there
And I delight to read them
in my kitchen rocking chair.
"Come unto Me, I'll give you rest"
renews my spirit, too,
When I feel pushed and kinda' down,
with stuff I oughta' do.

Sometimes it comes in handy
to recall a verse or so
So we can get on top th' heap
and then get up and go.
At times we do not realize
there's help not far away
That could give us a joyful sound
and brighten up our day.

*Propping
Us
Up*



Some days when we crawl out of bed
It's hard to get in gear
And do the stuff we oughta' do,
although its very clear
That there are things awaiting us
that really need our touch
And if we really felt quite good
'twould not amount to much.

But if you don't feel up to par
and life is kinda tough
There's something you can do, ya' know,
when you lack strength enough.
Tell God you need His help today
although you've really tried
And He will help you sure enough
and prop your leanin' side.

*Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always. Psalm 105:4*