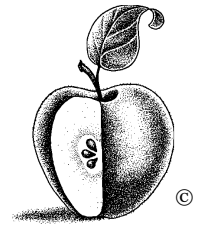


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DAY OF NEW BEGINNINGS

DAILY WORD, 5/91

“Each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities for new beginnings and new discoveries. Life is constantly changing and renewing itself. In this new day of new beginnings with God, all things are possible. We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder our lives are and can be.”



UNREMEMBERED ACTS

William Wordsworth

“How does the meadow flower its bloom unfold?”

Because the lovely little flower is free
Down to its root, and in that freedom bold.”

“That best portion of a good man’s life,
His little nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love.”

FREEDOM

Somerset Maugham

“If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom; and the irony of it is that if it is comfort or money that it values more, it will lose that, too.”

KNOWN FOR WHAT?

Anonymous

“If someone were to pay you ten cents for every kind word that you have spoken about people, and collect five cents for every unkind word, would you be rich or in debt?”

CALM A RAGING SPIRIT

Robert MacNeil (adapted)

“Going down to the sea can repair the spirit.... There is a cleansing, purifying effect to be had; that letting the fresh wind blow through your mind and spirits as well as your hair and clothing purge black thoughts; that contemplating the ceaseless motion of the waves calms a raging spirit.”

DAILY
BIBLE
READING



DEMOCRATIC IDEAS

Karl Marx

“Russia has only one opponent: the explosive power of democratic ideas, that inborn urge of the human race in the direction of freedom.”

REACH GREAT HEIGHTS

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.”

MOTHER’S DAY

J. Harold Gwynne

“A mother is a gardener, planting the seeds of faith, truth and love that develop into the fairest flowers of character, virtue and happiness in the lives of her children.”

COURTESY IS KINDNESS

George D. Powers

“Knowledge, ability, experience, are of little avail in reaching high success if courtesy be lacking. Courtesy is the one passport that will be accepted without question in every land, in every office, in every home, in every heart in the world. For nothing commends itself so well as kindness; and courtesy is kindness.”

SPIRITUAL READING

WEAVINGS, Sept.-Oct. '88

“Spiritual reading is the discipline through which we enter the company of the saints in order to glean their wisdom and to receive their guidance toward spiritual maturity. Yet spiritual reading of scripture or other texts does not follow the ‘strip-mining method’ we so often apply to written material. The aim in spiritual reading is not to scour the pages for valuable nuggets of insight with which we can turn a spiritual profit. Rather, spiritual reading is a form of dwelling in the words, listening attentively for what God is saying to us in the unique circumstances of our life.”

REALLY GREAT PEOPLE

Mark Twain

“Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.”

DIRTY LITTLE SECRET

Matt Kelley

“The Biggest Lie In The History of Christianity”, p.97

“Our dirty little secret is that we don’t actually want our lives to be transformed. Jesus wants to turn our lives upside down, which as it turns out will be right-side up. But we are comfortable with who we are and where we are, and we don’t want God all up in our business moving things around, turning things upside down, looking into every dark and dirty corner of our hearts and souls. Don’t get me wrong — we want to be considered good or committed Christians (whatever that means). But we are not interested and are certainly not deeply committed to collaborating with God to completely transform ourselves and our lives into the very-best-version of ourselves.

...That lie and all the extensions that are natural consequences of the lie lead us to one place: the big fat mediocre middle.”

“POWER OF THE SAW”

Source Unknown

Sower’s Seeds of Encouragement: 100 Stories of Hope, Humor & Healing

Once a do-it-yourselfer went into a hardware store and asked about a new saw for cutting firewood. The salesman took a chain saw from the shelf and told him it was the newest model, with the latest in technology, guaranteed to cut ten cords of wood a day. The customer thought that sounded great, so he bought it on the spot.

The next day the customer returned, looking somewhat exhausted. “Something must be wrong with this saw,” he moaned. “I worked as hard as I could and only managed to cut five cords of firewood. I used to cut seven cords with my old saw.”

Confused, the salesman said, “Here, let me try it out back on some wood we keep there. “They went to the woodpile, the salesman pulled the starter cord, and as the motor went *Vur-rooom*, the customer jumped back shouting, “What’s that noise?”

Now, the customer trying to saw wood without the power of the saw to help him is very much like the believer

who attempts to live the Christian life without the daily empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

GRADUATION GRATITUDE

Dr. Elie Wiesel

Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Elie Wiesel in a graduation address noted: “May I share with you one of the principles that governs my life? It is the realization that what I receive I must pass on to others. The knowledge that I have acquired must not remain imprisoned in my brain. I owe it to many men and women to do something with it. I feel the need to pay back what was given to me. Call it gratitude.”

JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS

Al Maxey

PULPIT HELPS, June 1995, p. 8

The story is told of a woman who invited all her friends over for a special dinner. Desiring to impress them, she hired a maid, a butler, and a chef. She purchased the finest steaks and exotic mushrooms to accompany them.

When the chef noticed that the mushrooms seemed a bit discolored, the lady suggested he feed a few to the dog, since it was too late to purchase more mushrooms. “If the dog eats them and doesn’t get sick, they’re probably all right.”

The dog eagerly consumed the mushrooms and showed no signs of ill-effects, so the chef completed the meal, and served the guests.

Later, as dessert was being served, the maid hurried in and whispered to the lady of the house, “Ma’am, the dog is dead!? Not waiting to hear any more, she leaped to her feet and told the guests they had no time to lose! They had eaten tainted mushrooms and must rush immediately to the hospital!

Some time later, after the lady and her guests had returned from having their stomachs pumped, she asked the maid, “Where is the dog now?”

“Why out in the front yard, ma’am,” replied the maid, “where he crawled to after the car hit him!”

MORAL: It is a good idea to thoroughly investigate a matter before leaping to hasty conclusions which may result in unfortunate consequences.

