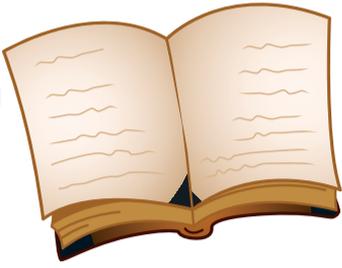


PRACTICE LEARNING

I chose this Ray Bentley article because what he says is so important and it reminds me of something that Gommel (my dad) emphasized. He would show someone how to do something and then watch to see if he/she learned to do things as instructed, to improve, to grow, and to practice being humble enough to accept teaching and not to resist it. This is key to a right relationship with God our Father. The human will, and our stubborn protection of our will (aka ego), may be the biggest stumbling block to our ability to relate to God and accept His ways and leading. Frank Sinatra's old song "I Did It My Way" may be a pretty song, but the sentiment is purely human and keeps us from God.



Bottom line: practice learning and growing and changing in little things, and then the big things will follow. Especially the biggest thing of all: submitting our stubborn wills to God and following His lead!

— Linda

WE ALL START AS BABIES

"Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone on the face of the earth."

— Numbers 12:3, NIV

The Bible calls Moses the meekest or humblest of all men. Moses, a powerful prince, a shepherd and finally the leader of his people — meek? Humble?

Do you know what made Moses meek? He was teachable. In spite of his insecurities and shortcomings, Moses allowed himself to grow and to learn. He was chosen to be the leader of his people, yet he never let that stop him from learning and taking advice from godly counsel. (Remember, Jesus said, *the meek will inherit the earth.*)



The late Leonard Ravenhill, the author and prayer warrior, tells the story of a group of tourists in a picturesque historic village in Europe. They saw an old man sitting by a fence, and in a rather condescending way asked him if any great men had been born in this village.

"Nope," he replied. "Only babies."

We all

start out the same way. The greatest men and women were once babies. The greatest saints were once toddlers in the things of the Spirit, Ravenhill reminds us.

Why do some go on to lead successful, productive, satisfying lives, doing great things, while others don't?

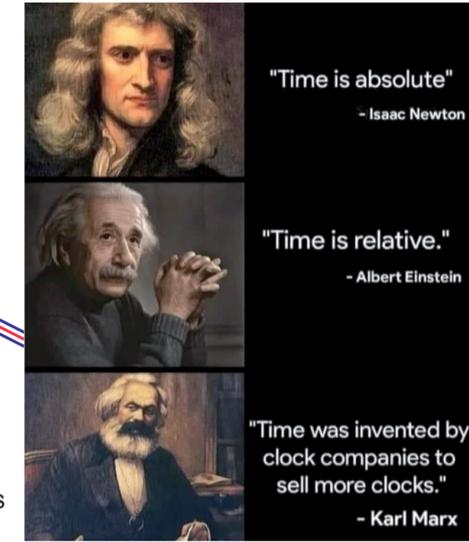
The key is that you can never stop growing and learning. We are a generation mesmerized and pacified by social media, the internet, television, and artificial life forms. Too many are zoning out on life,

tuning out God, resisting His desire to tame our destructive wills and nurture our spirits.

2 Peter 1:3 says, "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us."

The more we grow in the knowledge of God, the more we gain what is important for life. Our happiness in this life comes as a direct result of growing in our relationship with Christ.

When our will is subject to His will, when we experience the **power of obedience** we will live the abundant life Jesus promised.



THE POKE

ME: CDC, should I get poke if I already had Covid?

CDC: "Yes, you should be poked regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19."

ME: Oh, okay, we don't know how long natural immunity lasts. Got it. So, how long does poke-induced immunity last?

CDC: "There is still a lot we are learning about COVID-19 pokes and CDC is constantly reviewing evidence and updating guidance. We don't know how long protection lasts for those who are poked."

ME: ...wait a second. I thought you said the reason I need the poke was because we don't know how long my natural immunity lasts, but it seems like you're saying we ALSO don't know how long poke immunity lasts either. So, how exactly is the poke immunity better than my natural immunity?

CDC: 😊

ME: Uh ... alright. But, haven't there been a bunch of studies suggesting that natural immunity could last for years or decades?

CDC: Yes.

NEWYORKTIMES: "Years, maybe even decades, according to a new study."

ME: Ah. So natural immunity might last longer than poke immunity?

CDC: Possibly. You never know.

ME: Okay. If I get the poke, does that mean I won't get sick?

BRITAIN: Nope. We are just now entering a seasonal spike and about half of our infections and hospital admissions are poked people.

ME: CDC, is this true? Are there a lot of people in the U.S. catching Covid after getting the poke?

CDC: We stopped tracking breakthrough cases. We accept voluntary reports of breakthroughs but aren't out there looking for them.

ME: Does that mean that if someone comes in the hospital with Covid, you don't track them because they've been poked? You only track the UN-poked Covid cases?

CDC: That's right.

ME: Oh, okay. Hmm. Well, if I can still get sick after I get the poke, how is it helping me?

CDC: We never said you wouldn't get sick. We said it would reduce your chances of serious illness or death.

ME: Oh, sorry. Alright, exactly how much does it reduce my chance of serious illness or death.

CDC: We don't know "exactly."

ME: Oh. Then what's your best estimate for how much risk reduction there is?

CDC: We don't know, okay? Next question.

ME: Um, if I'm healthy and don't want the poke, is there any reason I should get it?

CDC: Yes, for the collective.

ME: How does the collective benefit from me getting poked?

CDC: Because you could spread the virus to someone else who might get sick and die.

ME: Can a poked person spread the virus to someone else?

CDC: Yes.

ME: So if I get poked, I could still spread the virus to someone else?

CDC: Yes.

ME: But I thought you just said, the REASON I should get poked was to prevent me spreading the virus? How does that make sense if I can still catch Covid and spread it after getting the poke?

CDC: Never mind that. The other thing is, if you stay unpoked, there's a chance the virus could possibly mutate into a strain that escapes the pokes protection, putting all poked people at risk.

ME: So the poke stops the virus from mutating?

CDC: No.

ME: So it can still mutate in poked people?

CDC: Yes.

ME: This seems confusing. If the poke doesn't stop mutations, and it doesn't stop infections, then how does me getting poked help prevent a more deadly strain from evolving to escape the poke?

CDC: You aren't listening, okay? The bottom line is: as long as you are unpoked, you pose a threat to poked people.

ME: But what KIND of threat??

CDC: The threat that they could get a serious case of

Covid and possibly die.

ME: My brain hurts. Didn't you JUST say that the poke doesn't keep people from catching Covid, but prevents a serious case or dying? Now it seems like you're saying poked people can still easily die from Covid even after they got the poke just by running into an unpoked person! Which is it??

CDC: That's it, we're hanging up now.

ME: Wait! I just want to make sure I understand all this. So, even if I ALREADY had Covid, I should STILL get poked, because we don't know how long natural immunity lasts, and we also don't know how long poke immunity lasts. And I should get the poke to keep a poked person from catching Covid from me, but even if I get the poke, I can give it to the poked person anyways. And, the other poked person can still easily catch a serious case of Covid from me and die. Do I have all that right?

CDC: 😊

ME: Um, hello? Is anyone there?

CDC: 😊

Los Angeles Reinstates Mask Mandate Amid Concerning Spike Of Freedom



We normally would not put this in this space since it appears too "political". However, the dire condition in which we find ourselves is beyond political. It is a spiritual battle between the dark forces of God's enemies and His forces of light and Truth.

Substitute "Leftists" for the word "Democrats" and "Normal" or "Conservative" for the word "Republican", and you see the issues through the proper lens of this cultural battle, which is far deeper than politics. — Linda

BRILLIANCE IN THREE PARTS

Part I:
A. Back off and let those men who want to marry men, marry men.
B. Allow those women who want to marry women, marry women.

C. Allow those folks who want to abort their babies, abort their babies.

In three generations, there will be no more Democrats.

Part II:

10 Poorest Cities in America (How did it happen?) City, State, % of People Below the Poverty Level

1. Detroit, MI 32.5%
2. Buffalo, NY 29.9%
3. Cincinnati, OH 27.8%
4. Cleveland, OH 27.0%
5. Miami, FL 26.9%
6. St. Louis, MO 26.8%
7. El Paso, TX 26.4%
8. Milwaukee, WI 26.2%
9. Philadelphia, PA 25.1%
10. Newark, NJ 24.2%

(Now, watch closely... at no time will the fingers leave the hands...) What do these top ten cities (over 250,000 pop.) with the highest poverty rate all have in common?

Detroit, MI - (1st on poverty rate list) no elected Republican mayor since 1961

Buffalo, NY - (2nd) hasn't elected one since 1954

Cincinnati, OH - (3rd) not since 1984

Cleveland, OH - (4th) not since 1989

Miami, FL - (5th) has never had a Republican mayor

St. Louis, MO - (6th) not since 1949

El Paso, TX - (7th) has never had a Republican mayor

Milwaukee, WI - (8th) not since 1908

Philadelphia, PA - (9th) not since 1952

Newark, NJ - (10th) not since 1907

Einstein once said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." It is the poor who habitually elect Democrats ... yet they are still POOR.

To Defeat Delta Variant, Experts Recommend All The Things That Didn't Work The First Time



Part III:

"You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

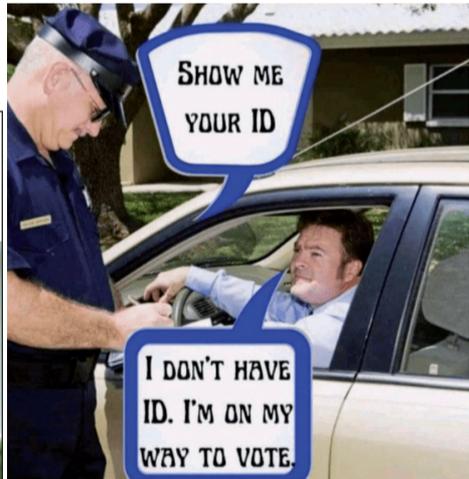
You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away people's initiative and independence.

You cannot help people permanently by doing for them, what they could and should do for themselves."

"Any man who thinks he can be happy and prosperous by letting the government take care of him had better take a much closer look at the American Indian."



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