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Lessons on Life

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away. The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer and the youngest son in the fall. When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen. The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted. The second son said no, it was covered with green buds and full of promise. The third son disagreed; he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen. The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment. The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life. He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up. If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfillment of your fall.

Lesson: Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest. Don't judge life by one difficult season. Persevere through the difficult patches and better times are sure to come some time later .

PERP UP

My Heart Is God's Home

I may have to cry sometimes
But I never cry alone
God is there to wipe my tears
Because my heart is God's home

I may stumble and fall sometimes
But I never stumble alone
God is there to pick me up
Because my heart is God's home

I may have to suffer sometimes
But I never suffer alone
God is there to ease the pain
Because my heart is God's home

It brings me joy to know
That I am never alone
God is with me all the time
Because my heart is God's home

Patricia Bankhead

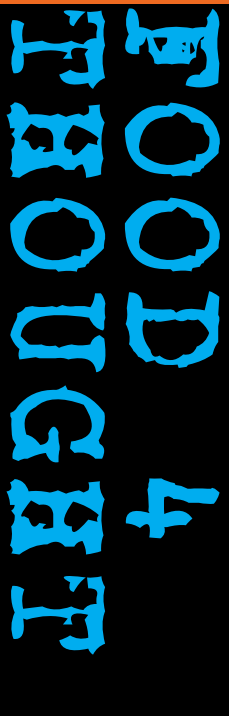
From Impossible to Possible

YOU'VE READ THE BIBLE & NOW

Moses grew up in the palace of the Pharaoh as his adopted son. The Bible says, "Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his words and deeds" (Acts.7: 22). At the age of forty while visiting his relatives, the Israelites, seeing an Egyptian oppressing his kinsman he struck him down. He thought that his kinsman would understand that God through him was rescuing them. Unfortunately he was misunderstood and had to flee to Midian for fear of his own people and of the Pharaoh. But after 40 years the Lord himself came up to him entrusting him the mission to free the Israelites from the clutches of the Pharaoh. When he was reluctant the Lord comforted him saying, "I will be with you." Then Moses went to Egypt and through many miracles and wonders he freed the Israelites from Egypt and led them to Canaan. Dear friends, in both instances Moses had the same intention, i.e. to free the Israelites. While in the first instance he himself took the initiative using his power, in the second instance it was God who gave the anointing. And that is the reason for the difference in the results. Only when God anoints someone at his chosen time, would any initiative bring about positive and wholesome results. We may be having a lot of intellectual capability and talents but only when the anointing sets in would it render good fruits. So let us humble ourselves and submit all our talents and gifts for the power of the Holy Ghost to set in. When the power of God anoints us, our possibilities go beyond our capabilities because nothing is impossible to God. So let us have these words in our hearts. "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain... it is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved" (Ps.127: 1-3) "The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord" (Sir.3: 18)

By Zacharias Augustine

Tips for a Happy Life



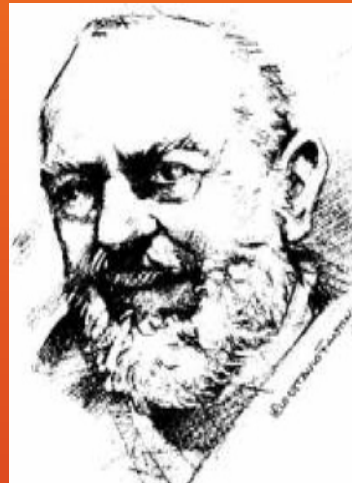
- **Mind your own business;** don't interfere in other people's personal matters unless they request you... it keeps you free from extra tension. However this does not mean that you should not reach out to help others.
- Don't be too curious; never try to investigate or inquire about a person's schedule, as these inquiries usually make you and the ones questioned uncomfortable.
- **Help yourself;** always do your work yourself, try not to use help unless you actually need it. It keeps you busy and secondly it saves you the hassle of another's carelessness.
- **Help other people;** you get a lot of pleasure by helping the needy. Always be ready to lend a helpful hand. Thanks and warm wishes will make your journey, life, happy and safe.
- **Recognize small achievements;** don't aim too high as small goals are equally important. Always remember little droplets make up the ocean. Your small achievements and virtues will also prove your worth.
- **Give thanks and say sorry;** never hesitate to say thank you and sorry. It shows your kind and caring nature. It also compels others to respect you and advise you.
- **Remember God;** always remember God, the Almighty. Pray for success and satisfaction in this life and after death.

September 23 St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina.

Born at Pio Forgione in the humble village of Pietrelcina near Benevento in 1887, he joined the Capuchin Order in 1903 and was ordained in 1910. In 1916 he arrived at the Order's house at San Giovanni Rotondo on the Gargano Peninsula north of Bari, where he remained until his death in 1968. On September 20, 1918 he received the stigmata of Christ, the open wounds which stayed with him for half a century. At one time held in suspicion (and indeed prohibited from saying Mass in public) this friar, with a remarkable insight into human souls,

became – very reluctantly – a magnet for many distressed and confused people seeking reconciliation with God. Film evidence of pilgrims, in an engagingly Italian way, literally battling to get to his confessional, suffices to suggest his exceptional capacity as a vehicle to God. He was beatified on May 2, 1999.

On June 16, 2002, over 500,000 Padre Pio devotees gathered in Rome to witness Pope John Paul II proclaim Padre Pio, Saint Pio of Pietrelcina.



Life is all about change, nothing is permanent and everything keeps on changing; your opinions, your lifestyle, your location, your look, your outlook, your sight, your insight, your children, your parents, and your friends. It doesn't seem cool like it once did. Only one thing never changes and never will...GOD.

Virginia Geranio

When your eye is focused inward, your love can focus outward. **Shelley Joy**

Live each day as if it were your last and love each person as if it were theirs.
Dan Ruley