



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!
Helping Developing Christians Grow!
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David's Devotional

The SPA

Two men were given gift certificates to spend the day at a prestigious SPA. This is an acronym from "Sanus Per Aquam" meaning "Health by or through water".

As part of their experience, they were each directed to the indoor swimming pool. The water was set at the perfect temperature and had all the prescribed minerals, fragrances, and even a gentle agitation to move the waters soothingly over tense muscles.

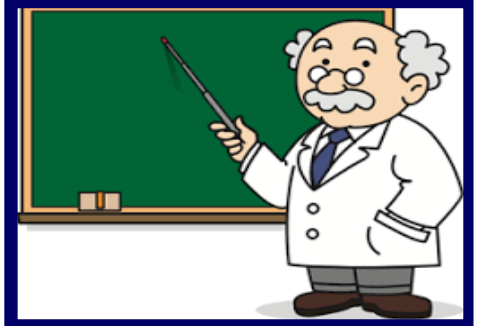
Each man was given these simple instructions: "Go to the end of the hall and enter the door on the right. Get into the pool and stay for one hour. This will complete your experience with us. You will leave through the exit door located at the back of the pool area. This will take you through a beautiful garden where we invite you to stay as long as you like."

Joe was the first to be ready for the SPA final event. He went down the hall and entered the door to his right. The next hour was extremely relaxing. Upon leaving the pool area he found the garden to be filled with the aroma of a variety of flowers and herbs. He stayed a while!

Sam was only a few minutes behind, but he entered the door on the left! He was met with the stench of an open Septic Tank! Believing this was part of the healing prescription, he entered the tank where he forced himself to remain the entire hour! He was miserable! He was so happy to exit the room, but was dismayed to find himself in a garbage-filled alleyway with rotting refuse, dilapidated dumpsters, and foul filth! He couldn't leave the area fast enough!

The two men met that evening. The odor of their respective experience still lingered on each of them. Joe felt relaxed and refreshed. Sam felt a lot differently! The SPA had both a Pool and a Septic Tank. Both existed and served their purpose, but only one was pleasant!

Our life is that SPA! It is a gift! God has given us the instruction we need to have a pleasant experience now and when we exit. However, if we don't follow His instruction, we can expect a foul experience for both! David Conley



An Interesting Quote:

"Continued success tends to cause people to lose their humility and to become less teachable."

Henry Blackaby

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" **Revelation 3:17**

Jesus said this to the congregation of the Lord's church at Laodicea.

They had become "lukewarm". Jesus said it made him sick! This is a harsh rebuke! Jesus told them why He spoke to them like this:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Revelation 3:19

Never become so "successful" that we stop listening. That is not success!

David Conley

Did You Know?

"February" is one of the most misspelled words!

The first "R" is often overlooked! February got it's name from the Latin word "februum," which means "purification".

It is a month to "purify" & "cleanse".
 Rebirth, Regenerate, Redeem,
 Restore, Resurrection, etc.

We all need these things!
 Don't leave out the "R"!

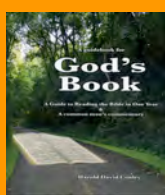


What Happened? Madison Was Honored

Our FAVORITE Granddaughter (and only granddaughter) has accomplished many things in 18 years (her 18th Birthday was in February).

This academic award is her latest accomplishment!

(Nano & Papa are pretty proud of her!)



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Once Upon A Time ...

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Drinking

Daddy disappeared into the old cement block "pump house" just outside our back door.

He had several items in a sack; Sugar, maybe some yeast, definitely some Blue Ribbon Malt Syrup. After a while he came out with a jug of yellowish-orange liquid. He called it "homebrew". Over strong objections from Mama, we boys were allowed to taste. Billy, the oldest, took a big gulp. He handed the glass to me and said, "That's good!" I took it from his hand and smelled it first. It smelled like sour water from the bottom of a fifty-five gallon drum on a hot summer day! Nevertheless, I took a drink. I had never tasted sour water, but it must surely taste like "homebrew"! Billy had lied to me!

On another occasion Daddy put some grapes in a gallon jug with some other ingredients on the back porch. Several days later, he strained the rotten fruit from the liquid. He called it "wine". It was tasting time. Billy went first. He took a big gulp. Suddenly his face turned red. He couldn't breathe! He grabbed his chest with one hand and the edge of the table with the other. Tears welled up in his eyes. Some tears escaped his right eye and fell onto his cheek. After a few minutes of coughing and gasping he finally spoke with a whispered, raspy voice. He handed me the glass and said, "That's good!"

WHAT?!!! Anything that caused such a violent reaction could, by no stretch of the imagination, be called "good"! Billy was lying - again! I said, "NO THANKS"!!!!

I learned very early the lesson of **Proverbs 20:1** "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

David Conley

Where Is My Focus?

It has been rightly observed:
"If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it!"



Someone shared this with me many years ago. They wanted to encourage me to focus on God.

Happy Moments..... Praise GOD
Difficult Moments..... Seek GOD
Quiet Moments..... Worship GOD
Painful Moments..... Trust GOD
Every Moment..... Thank GOD

I am full of fleshly thoughts and desires. Pride is my greatest sin and most difficult obstacle.

In my "Happy Moments" I praise myself thinking what a great job I have done.

In my "Difficult Moments" I seek attention for myself.

In my "Quiet Moments" I wonder what else I could be doing, thus filling my mind with worry and anxiety.

In my "Painful Moments" I tend to trust no one.

In "Every Moment" I am often dissatisfied and not very thankful.

"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" **Romans 7:24**

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
Psalm 139:23-24

If we humble ourselves (*giving up our pride*) and follow God's will (*not our own will*) we will be delivered from the prison of selfishness!

I must focus on God; not myself! God help me to serve you and glorify your Holy name above all else!

David Conley

A Funny Thing Happened ...



The preacher's daughter was about to be married. He asked the young fellow if he had a job. "No Sir, I believe God will take care of us!" The preacher asked if he had any interviews or applications submitted. "No Sir" the boy replied again, "I believe God will take care of us!"

After his daughter left with the young man, the preacher's wife ask what he thought of his future son-in-law. "I guess I have to like him ... he thinks I'm God!!!" The preacher remembered **II Thessalonians 3:10** "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." The preacher also remembered **Matthew 4:7** "Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."