

“I Wish You Enough!”

By Willard Allen

Recently, I overheard a father and daughter in their last moments together. Standing near the security gate at the airport, they hugged and he said, “I love you. I wish you enough.”

She in turn said, “Daddy, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough, too, Daddy.”

They kissed and she left. He walked over toward the window where I was seated. Standing there, I could see he wanted and needed to cry. I tried not to intrude on his privacy, but he welcomed me in by asking, “Did you ever say good-bye to someone knowing it would be forever?”

“Yes, I have,” I replied. Saying that brought back memories I had of expressing my love and appreciation for all my Dad had done for me. Recognizing that his days were limited, I took the time to tell him face to face how much he meant to me. So I knew what this man was experiencing.

“Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever good-bye?” I asked.

“I am old and she lives much too far away. I have challenges ahead, and the reality is, the next trip back will be for my funeral,” he said.

When you were saying good-bye I heard you say, 'I wish you enough.' May I ask what that means?”

He began to smile. “That's a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone.”

He paused for a moment and looking up as if trying to remember it in detail, he smiled even more. “When we said 'I wish you enough,' we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them,” he continued and then turning toward me he shared the following as if he were reciting it from memory:

“I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish enough 'Hello's' to get you through the final Good-bye.”

He then began to sob and walked away.

Friends and brethren, I wish you enough!

A Quick Sprint or a Long Race?

Cheetahs survive the African plains by running down their prey. These big cats can sprint to more than seventy miles per hour, but they cannot sustain their fast pace for long. Within their long, sleek bodies are disproportionately small hearts, which cause them to tire quickly. Unless the cheetahs catch their prey in their first fast sprint, they will abandon their chase.

Sometimes Christians seem to have the cheetah's approach to serving the Lord. They speed into projects with great energy, but lacking the hearts for sustained effort, they soon fizzle out. Let us have great staying power, stamina that comes from big hearts, so that we can patiently run the race set before us. “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Heb. 12:1-2).

Caught From Behind

“Pali, this bull has killed me.” So said Jose Cubero, one of Spain's most brilliant matadors, before he lost consciousness and died. Only 21 years old, he had been enjoying a spectacular career. However, in this 1985 bullfight, Jose made a tragic mistake. He thrust his sword a final time

into a bleeding, delirious bull, which then collapsed. Considering the struggle finished, Jose turned to the crowd to acknowledge the applause. The bull, however, was not dead. It rose and lunged at the unsuspecting matador, its horn piercing his back and puncturing his heart.

Likewise, sinful lusts can be very deceitful. Just when we think they are dead, they can rise up and pierce us from behind. Let us be on guard. "That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:22-24).

A Rather Complicated Design

A single human chromosome contains twenty billion bits of information. How much information is twenty billion bits? What would be its equivalent, if it were written down in an ordinary printed book in modern human language? Twenty billion bits are the equivalent of about three billion letters. If there are approximately six letters in an average word, the information content of a human chromosome corresponds to about five hundred million words. If there are about three hundred words on an ordinary page of printed type, this corresponds to about two million pages. If a typical book contains five hundred such pages, the information content of a single chromosome corresponds to some four thousand volumes. As there are twenty-three pairs of chromosomes in the human genome, every cell in a human body contains the equivalent of 184,000 volumes, or a shelf of books nearly six miles wide. It is clear, then, that the chromosome contains an enormous library of information. It is equally clear that so rich a library is required to specify so exquisitely constructed and intricately functioning object as a human being.

Truly, we are fearfully and wonderfully made by an awesome Creator. "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:13-14).

A Moments Wisdom

- If a discussion generates more heat than light, it doesn't provide answers, but does make people angry.
- God will either lighten our load or strengthen our back.
- Flattery is the reverse side of malicious gossip, and this coin is quickly and easily flipped. Beware.
- Unhappiness is not knowing what we want and killing ourselves trying to get it.
- People are rich based on who they are, not what they have.
- He who cannot obey, cannot command.
- The woods would be silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.
- Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to an all-knowing God.
- Our darkest hour is still only 60 minutes long.
- If fifty million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.
- Adversity creates heroes.
- Faith is taking the first step even though you cannot see the whole staircase.
- Glassware, fine China, and reputations are easily broken and never completely repaired.
- A tongue does not weigh much, but most people have trouble holding theirs.
- Don't belittle; be big.
- To cure jealousy, see it for what it is, a strong dissatisfaction with yourself.
- Wise men think without talking; foolish men talk without thinking.
- A face without a smile is like a lantern without a light.
- Character is what you are willing to do when the spotlight is turned off, the applause has died down, the audience has gone home, and no one is around to give you credit.