

# REMINISCING AND REMEMBERING THE GOOD OLD DAYS?

Devotion by Gerald Cumby



**To My Old-As-Dirt Friends and Relatives who qualify as "the Senior Seniors," you have to remember the games we played as we traveled around on vacation (that one vacation we took) and our 30-35 minute trips to Pa and Granny's house. Those games like "My Ship Goes to London"...The Gallows Game (guessing letters of a word one of the family members made up while traveling to our destination)...and Letters of the Alphabet on License Plates. Ever who finds all the letters on the license plate first wins the game. We really made the time go by fast as we all (Dad, Mom, my siblings and I) played the games together. We loved solving the word games before Dad and Mom because they were the adults who knew more than we did even after we became "old-as-dirt."**

**We lost Dad in a construction accident when I was thirteen and we were hurt deeply as our laughter turned to mourning at our home. Some of my older siblings were not available to play the car games as they matured and enjoyed the other half of the world as they found the girl of their dreams and got married. My sister, Pat, even found some old boy (a good one) and they got hitched, too. However, all of us never forgot those times in the car where all of us talked over each other and joked about how "dumb" the others were because they lost the game we were playing. I can tell you this...We had more fun doing the games as a family than looking at an iPhone and not talking with anyone else as they do today. Nobody in our family felt unloved or like they might be a girl instead of a boy; nor felt the world owed us something for nothing. Dad loved Mom; they loved us, we loved each other...and we all loved America. We stood**

**with our hands over our hearts when the National Anthem was played or sung. We loved God, family, and Country. We young boys weren't different than others when every boy in school looked with a grin on our face at the girls working out in shorts in a gymnasium class. We chased girls and caught them...and in my case got married to my sweetheart...nearly 64 years ago. She has been the "apple of my eye"...and the strong force in keeping our eyes and heart on the prize of the high-calling of God.**

**Now for the oldies who grew up in the 30's, 40's, and 50's. Do you remember the Burma Shave commercials? No, you don't; because Burma Shave did not have commercials on television or radio. They advertised on highways throughout America. Yes...now you remember!**

**For those who never were around to enjoy and laugh at the Burma Shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history of the 1930's, '40's, and 50's. Before there were interstates when everyone drove the old 2-lane roads, Burma Shave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmers' fields. They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 75 yards apart, each containing 1 line of a 4-line couplet and the obligatory 5th sign advertising Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream at the time.**

**You would be driving at the outrageous speed limit of 55 mph and see these signs giving you some "witty" wisdom trying to keep people safe and awake as they drive. Well, at least the signs made you think about keeping your passengers (usually family) safe as we made our way through the hills of Texas and other parts of the country.**

**I'm sure that those Burma Shave signs actually saved some lives. People laughed and they were more careful! It was a REAL "service" to America. Even though it was an advertisement, it was one of the RARE "useful" ones.**

**The signs would have a message such as:**

**DON'T STICK YOUR ELBOW  
OUT SO FAR**

IT MAY GO HOME  
IN ANOTHER CAR.  
Burma Shave

TRAIN DON'T WANDER  
ALL OVER THE MAP  
'CAUSE NOBODY SITS  
IN THE ENGINEER'S LAP.  
Burma Shave

DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD  
TO GAIN A MINUTE  
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD  
YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT.  
Burma Shave

DROVE TOO LONG  
DRIVER SNOOZING  
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT  
IS NOT AMUSING.  
Burma Shave

BROTHER SPEEDER  
LET'S REHEARSE  
ALL TOGETHER  
GOOD MORNING, NURSE!  
Burma Shave

SPEED WAS HIGH  
WEATHER WAS NOT  
TIRES WERE THIN  
X MARKS THE SPOT.  
Burma Shave

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE  
OF PAUL FOR BEER  
LED TO A WARMER  
HEMISPHERE.  
Burma Shave

AROUND THE CURVE  
LICKETY-SPLIT

**BEAUTIFUL CAR  
WASN'T IT?  
Burma Shave**

**NO MATTER THE PRICE  
NO MATTER HOW NEW  
THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE  
IN THE CAR IS YOU.  
Burma Shave**

**AT INTERSECTIONS  
LOOK EACH WAY  
A HARP SOUNDS NICE  
BUT IT'S HARD TO PLAY.  
Burma Shave**

**CAR IN DITCH  
DRIVER IN TREE  
THE MOON WAS FULL  
AND SO WAS HE.  
Burma Shave**

**And the one I like the most. Drum  
roll, please!**

**A man, a miss,  
A car, a curve.  
He kissed the miss,  
And missed the curve.  
Burma Shave**

**Do the Burma Shave advertisements bring back any old memories?  
If not, you're merely a child. If they do - then you're old as dirt -  
LIKE ME!**

**I would say that the Burma Shave Human Resource Managers had  
some "round the table ideas" from the employees back then. I  
picture them lying awake at night thinking of new ideas to bring to  
the table the next day. Today we call those employees part of a team  
in a "Think Tank" session where they "brainstormed" for new**

**marketing ideas for a new product. Many great ideas for new business tools, techniques, and products come from these witty and productive sessions.**

***What does this information have to do with a "spiritual" devotion? Well, I am fixin' to tell you!!***

**Quotes making sense, refreshing our memories of yesteryear, and adjusting our attitudes to meet the new day are found throughout the Bible. These words from the Word show us how much our God cares about us and how He loves to laugh at our silly ways of thinking. Laughter is an amazing ability that God gave us all. Laughter helps us cope with sadness in life. The Bible gives examples of when to laugh and when not to laugh. The Bible also gives us the strength to be able to laugh at ourselves and others.**

**The Bible says that laughter is from God, useful in praise, a symbol of victory, and part of the joy of a Christian life even after hard times.**

**Here are some Scriptures mention laughter and joy:**

- ***Genesis 21:6: "And Sarah declared, 'God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me.'"***

**Sarah, Abraham's wife, had a baby in her old age. Nothing is impossible with God.**

- ***Job 8:21: "He will once again fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy."***

**God gave Job a new life after experiencing physical and emotional hardships. God gives new life as we understand the joy of the "born again" experience and the goodness of God in our lives.**

- ***Psalm 2:4: "But the one who rules in heaven laughs."***

**Isn't it good to know that our God in heaven laughs? Laughing is a trait all of us should have as we experience our walk with Him.**

- *Psalm 30:11: "You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing."*

Come on, Church! There are all kinds of reasons to dance... Family members being saved, weddings, little ones born into a loving home.

- *Proverbs 17:22: "A merry heart does good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones."*

We should all have experienced something that has brought joy to our lives. Our hearts are a melting point of dignity, love for others, and love for our God. When our spirits are bruised by bad experiences and negative influences, our bones feel the shock and shake of outside attacks from the enemy. Prayer is the key to the healing of a broken spirit.

- *Psalm 126:2: "Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD has done great things for them."*

When we look for and experience the goodness of God, we will sing for joy. Singing the joys of the Lord are always a deterrent to the enemy's tactics of depression and causing the loss of spiritual energy.

Here are some Biblical truths that are comical, but helpful for us as we live life to the fullest:

1. *Ecclesiastes 10:19: "A feast is made for laughter, wine makes life merry, and money is the answer for everything."*

This is about the equivalent of saying, Roses are always red and violets are always blue. I think Solomon was trying to make a joke. Since Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon in his twilight years of life, I would think he realized that God had given him a great gift, the gift of wisdom. God gave Solomon this gift because Solomon did not ask for great treasures or a life of luxury; he asked for wisdom. Like anything else God might give us (salvation, family, etc.), he always gives us a choice to accept the gift or gifts. Solomon had wisdom but failed to use this gift "wisely" (pun intended). Solomon could not handle the gift. He wanted (not needed) more than what God had awarded him. His unwise and childish use of women

and not understanding their likes and dislikes; his failure in his early years of life to understand that life is a forever thing, made him question everything. If Solomon was obedient to God's laws and would have learned to trust in God with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, Solomon might have been counted in the Hall of Faith found in Hebrews 11...but he was not mentioned. Even Rahab, the harlot, had a place in the Hall of Faith. Without judging and without speculating, I think Solomon might have made it to God's heaven in that in the end he saw the light of the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil"

Money can't guarantee happiness and you can't take it with you. This verse is satire and a play on the fact that you can't take "things" or "money" with you. It certainly can't answer the problems we all will experience in our quest for true happiness and eternal life.

**2. *Song of Songs 7:4: "Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus."***

If I had said that to Sherry before or after we married, I would have been in deep trouble. Evidently, explaining the beauty of a woman in those days were not the same as today. Surely the "wise" male knows not to compare his sweetheart's nose to some tower on a highway going from one place to another. Those are not the most romantic words expressed to get somewhere with your beloved lady friend. I'm just telling the truth! I guess, however, some people believe that beauty is only skin deep (the person must be blind as a bat). Also, some might say "beauty is in the eye of the beholder." Now that has to be true...because I have seen some women that did not get my attention...at all; while another man might want to find that girl's phone number because he thought she was gorgeous.

**3. *2 Kings 9:20: "The lookout reported, 'He has reached them, but he isn't coming back either."***

Is this guy a lookout who can't figure out whether the guy being observed is coming or going? Maybe the lookout did not know what he was "looking out" for. The lookout is trying to adjust his eyes to the environment. Since he had no eyeglasses or binoculars back then, he depended on what one might

speculate was going to happen; i.e. If he has reached his destination, surely he is going to come back! He is in "enemy territory" and the idea is to come back with information. One might perceive that the messenger with the message to the enemy is not going to fulfill his planned objective.

4. *Mark 9:34: "But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest."*

Jesus had taught the disciples many things as He was mentoring them to be witnesses of God's love to mankind. Jesus taught them to be humble in thoughts and actions. He taught them that the works they are doing and will be doing after He (Jesus) is back in heaven with His Father are works that they should never want any glory for their successes. For instance, the disciples would be praying for the healing of the sick, casting out demons, raising the dead, etc.; however, they were never to do it for payment, glory, or a pat-on-the-back.

Now, the disciples were arguing as to which one of them were going to be the greatest in the Kingdom of God. At this point, they were quiet because they were mad at each other and not talking to one another. In their minds they were thinking, "Surely God will see that I'm the one who did more for the kingdom than others!" One thing for sure...God had to do a mighty work in the disciples as they were witnesses to all the world that Jesus of Nazareth was the long sought after Messiah who would be waiting for them when they crossed into "Glory Land" as they left this world and into the Promised Land promised by God's Son, the Messiah, Jesus...Savior of the World. Wisdom comes to the man or woman who has humbled themselves and turned their lives over to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As we look at laughter and joy, we see that the New Testament may not mention laughter as frequently as the Old Testament. However, it is rich with experiences of joy that reflect the heart of the New Covenant. "Joy" is a recurring theme, and the Bible encourages believers to be glad and have a cheerful spirit.

1 Peter 4:13, "But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also **rejoice and be glad** when his glory is revealed."

1 Peter 1:8, "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and **rejoice with joy** that is inexpressible and filled with glory,"

*We Christians have a lot to laugh and rejoice about. We will be with the King of Joy. It will be more than delightful; it will be GLORIOUS!*