

Yes, You Can **By Don Truex**

One question asked with frequency is, "What can I do as a member of this local congregation?" That is truly a fine inquiry and manifests a spirit that is much needed today. To be happy in the work of the Lord is to cultivate a real sense of belonging. To legitimately feel that you are a vital part of the work. To be active in the work of the Lord is to have concern for that work and a genuine love for those who share in that same work with you. There is much that you can do today to share the good message of salvation that has graced your life. You can:

- Concentrate, one on one, in leading a soul to Christ.
- Entertain a group of members in your home in order to cultivate better friendship and relationships. Take a personal interest in and responsibility for the peace, harmony and growth of the church.
- Invite a friend or family member to Bible study and Worship. Countless people are sincerely searching for truth and would cherish and accept your interest in them.
- Take an active interest in the visitors to our assemblies. Greet them with warmth and friendliness. Talk to them, sit with them, encourage them. Never allow them to merely be lost in a sea of humanity, and thus leave feeling that their presence is not important and valued.
- Through a card, visit, or call, encourage those members who are absent from our assemblies. Absenteeism is a symptom of a deeper need which must be addressed immediately.
- Write a note of appreciation to someone who has truly influenced your spiritual life.
- Forgive someone who has set himself to be your enemy. Ask God to help you rise above anger, revenge and ill will. Pray for that enemy and do him good. Always conduct yourself as a Christian in both word and action.
- Do something thoughtful for a sick or home bound person. What better way can one illustrate love for those less fortunate than ourselves?
- Make a special effort to show hospitality to someone who has lost a loved one or is struggling with some grave personal challenge.
- Pray each day for the Kingdom of God (His people) on earth.

You see, there is much you can do in using this day to the glory of God and the betterment of His Son's kingdom.

In My Sight **By Myrtle Webb Williams**

In my mind's eye, I see a waving field of beautiful flowers;
But they don't compare with the beauty of My home in heaven.
I reached down and picked up a bright white, glittering diamond, a gold nugget,
Beside a faultless pearl; rich in creamy texture, all this without cost:
Free because I found it all there for my possession.
What worth are these compared to my home prepared for me by my Lord,
Where we need no light; God's brilliance fulfills our sight
To light up our happiness triumphantly.

Oh, God, my trapped spirit swells against the borders of my flesh and bones.
Bring down your ladder that I might climb up there to You in prayer.
With the help of Your Holy Spirit, pour out my soul's desire to You, my Father,

Through your Son, my High Priest and only mediator;
Knowing that you love me and hear me comes by faith
And not by my limitation of eyesight.

Bursts of beauty, as the first ray of light,
Announces the dawning of the rising sun, fills my sightless eyes.
A glimpse of heaven, my future home to house my endless spirit,
Dispels the gloom and darkness of my earthly eyes.
Joy and happiness tells my spirit to rise quietly as a released vapor escapes,
To be home with my Creator,
Who gives sight and light to my useless eyes!

(Sister Myrtle Williams wrote this at the age of 87. She was a resident of Marathon in Key West, Florida and was blind. She and one other man constituted the church in Marathon. When Albert and Adalene Norman spent their winters there, the church doubled in size -- from two members to four. Sister Williams attached the following dedication to the other person who made up the church in Marathon: "To James Nelson, who loves the One Church which is the Body of Christ - Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4")

Controlling the Tongue

It was a particularly tough football game, and nerves were on edge. The home team had been the victim of three or four close calls, and they were now trailing the visitors by a touchdown and a field goal. When the official called yet another close one in the visitors' favor, the home quarterback blew his top.

"How many times can you do this to us in a single game?" he screamed. "You were wrong on the out-of-bounds call, you were wrong on that last holding call, and you failed to say anything about a late hit in the first quarter." The official just stared. The quarterback seethed, but he tried to suppress language that might get him tossed out of the game. "What it comes down to," he bellowed, "is that YOU STINK!"

The official stared a few more seconds. Then he bent down, picked up the ball, paced off 15 yards, and put the ball down. He turned to face the steaming quarterback. "And how do I smell from here?" he asked.

There are so many times when it is hard to "bite the tongue" and say nothing. The urge to say "something" seems so overpowering that the words sometimes erupt before we have a chance to think them through. Unfortunately, those words have consequences. The minor offenses result in 15-yard penalties. The more serious offenses result in years of regret and heartache, or perhaps broken relationships that take years to rebuild. No wonder James had such strong words of praise concerning the person who is always able to control what he says (James 3:2).

"He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive" (Prov. 17:27-28). May your words today be few, calm, and carefully thought out. (TFTD - Alan Smith)