

In My Humble Opinion

By: Dr. James L. Snyder

It was a busy week last week and then the mail came and brought me a package from one of my relatives. It turned out to be old pictures of my family from decades ago.

As I was going through these photographs, I could hardly recognize most of them. According to the letter in the package, they were my relatives. Most had been dead for 40 to 50 years.

Then I hit that “aha” moment. There was a picture of a relative I had long ago forgotten about. Why I forgot about him, I will never know. He actually died almost 50 years ago.

When I saw that picture, I had to call my wife over to show her.

“This is a picture of Uncle Frank.” I leaned back and smiled, thinking of him and all the antics associated with him.

“Have I ever met your Uncle Frank?”

I looked at my wife, smiled, and said, “No, my dear, you would have remembered him if you did.”

The memories of good old Uncle Frank began marinating in my head, and stories began developing. If anybody could screw up a situation, it was good old Uncle Frank.

His wife, Aunt Betty, always got frustrated at her husband when he was interrupting her conversations. He did that quite often, much to her chagrin. And believe me, her “cha” didn’t grin that much.

In the middle of a conversation, Uncle Frank would break in and say, “In my humble opinion...” Then he would take the conversation off in the direction nobody could have ever expected.

One time, I wish that I could have been there then, it all came to a head.

I think it was in a church setting, but a group of people was together talking about something. I do not know what the conversation was

about, and I wish I’d been there. But it was at that point that everything came to a head with good old Uncle Frank.

As the conversation was getting along all of a sudden, Uncle Frank said, “In my humble opinion...” At that moment, Aunt Betty had enough, jumped in, and took control of the situation.

“Frank,” she said in a very stern voice, “you are not humble, and nobody is interested in any opinion you might have.”

From that moment on, nobody ever heard Uncle Frank ever say again the words, “In my humble opinion...”

My wife laughed rather heartily as I told her this story. I wish she could have met him because he was quite a character. I must say, as I think about that situation, my wife reminds me a lot of good ole Aunt Betty.

Later on that day, we were involved in something; she was talking about the plans that we needed to make, and I interrupted her by saying, “In my humble opinion...” That is as far as I got because she immediately jumped in and said, “Now I know who reminds me of Uncle Frank.”

A verse of Scripture came to my mind at that time. “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5).

What I have learned is that humble people rarely give their opinion.

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A Lesson from Bacon

By: Dawn Reed

I turned off the hair dryer. Something was not right. I opened the door quietly hoping not to wake my beloved.

Walking into the kitchen, I tried to put my finger on what was wrong. Yikes! I didn’t smell bacon!

For a low-carb diet, I bake bacon every morning for breakfast. As I get ready for the day, it’s getting ready, too, browning just right and filling the house with a delicious aroma. The smell calls, “Something good is happening in here!” But this morning, there was no delicious smell.

Puzzled, I looked all around. Silly me! I had forgotten to turn on the oven! The uncooked bacon rested patiently in the glass baking dish waiting for the heating process to begin. In my hustle and bustle of the morning, I had done everything except turn on the oven!

I easily pushed the START/POWER button to get the bacon cooking. Shaking my head, I returned to finish drying my hair. “Bacon won’t cook if you don’t turn on the heat!” I muttered.

Trying to cook bacon without turning on the oven (or other heat source) is ridiculous. No matter how much I wish it will work, it’s

impossible. It won’t reach its full potential without tapping into the electricity or turning on the power.

Living without tapping into the strength and power of God is crazy talk, too. Life can be wonderful! But it can also be hard, frustrating and exhausting! I’m not smart enough or strong enough on my own to face what life brings. I NEED God’s help every day! I WANT His help! If I hurry and scurry around but neglect time with Him, then I’m doing life on my own, in my own strength. Just like my uncooked bacon, I won’t reach my full potential. I won’t be the blessing I was intended to be.

One great way to stay connected to God’s power is by reading His Word. History, drama, suspense and wisdom await each time we open it! You don’t have to read a book a day...but read SOME of it! There are also devotionals available in every length and translation. It’s good medicine for our souls!

Psalm 119:105 reminds us, “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” It still guides, it still directs, it still comforts!

And it may just save your bacon sometime!

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