

MARCH 2021



# SUPER SIXTIES

## *Spring's Promise*

*Dressy crocuses  
Wearing white, purple and gold  
Outfitted for Spring*

*White's for purity  
Snow, wool, diamonds and  
moonlight  
Flawless perfection*

*Purples royalty  
Kings and queens highly enthroned  
Robed in finery*

*Gold is eternal  
Crowns adorning Jesus' feet  
Amid heaven's streets*

*Green skirts the blossoms  
A promise of fresh new growth  
As God jumpstarts Spring.*

*~Jane Lippy*

*...Song of Solomon 2:12  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of the singing of birds is come,  
and the voice of the turtle  
is heard in our land;*



## CAMPBELL COMMENTS



### ***PARABLE OF THE SNOW***

I am not a fan of snow - especially when I have to shovel it or drive in it, but there is a certain fascination when the snow falls and transforms the dismal winter landscape. The world, including eyesores such as junk yards and trash piles, suddenly becomes beautiful.

I suppose we associate white as the symbol of cleanliness and purity; examples are nurse's uniforms, brides' gowns, baptismal robes, and angels, who usually are depicted in white attire.

In the Old Testament the Israelites were instructed to sacrifice a pure, white lamb without blemish for forgiveness of their sins. (see Leviticus 4:32-35.)

When the snow falls, it appears to our eyes that the world's ugliness is now clothed in peaceful, beautiful cleanliness and purity.

However, if the snow stays around several days, it becomes contaminated with soot and grime from the atmosphere. Then when the snow finally melts, the junk and trash reappear, but now they are coated with the greasy grime,

I wonder if this could be a parable of our lives. We have our piles of junk and trash, such as our sins, bad habits, and critical attitudes. We try to cover them with a few good deeds, pious pronouncements, or pretended goodness. Then in the brightness of God's sunlight, they reappear with more hideous grime than before!

Only God can do away with the junk and trash in your life. He has promised, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18). God in not in the business of merely covering up our sins

temporarily, but of totally removing them.

Have you asked God to destroy the junk and trash in your life?

### ***NEVER CHANGING YET NEW***

Every night before retiring, I read a chapter in my Bible. No matter how often I may have read a chapter, I always notice something new.

Recently as I was reading Exodus 28, I noticed this verse: "And thou shalt make ouches of gold" (v. 13). The word *ouches* caught my attention. "Ouch" is something blurted out automatically when one is injured. How could an ouch be made of gold?

I looked the word up in my dictionary. To my amazement, I found that it also means "a clasp, buckle, or brooch, worn for adornment."

This minor discovery made me realize anew that God's Word holds many surprises, lessons, and gifts for us. It is never changing yet ever new.

~Christine Odum

### ***ENTHUSIASM IN OUR WORK***

Norman Rockwell, the famous American artist, devoted his life to painting the average person involved in everyday life. Numerous magazine covers bear his signature. This remarkable man believed in living every day to the fullest. His vigor and enthusiasm left us a legacy to treasure for generations to come.

We as Christians need to work with the same enthusiasm in the work of our Lord. Telling others about the love of God and the plan of salvation is our greatest legacy

The Lord said, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Eccl. 9:10).

~Carolyn Ross Tomlin

## FATHER ABRAHAM'S MARCH QUIZ "IN GOD'S GARDEN"

1. In which Old Testament book do we find the words, "A time to plant, and a time to pluck up"?
2. What type of tree is Gethsemane most famous for?
3. In the Parable of the Sower, where did the third lot of seed land?
4. Which king was driven away from his people and ate grass like cattle?
5. Complete the sentence: "Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with \_\_\_\_\_ seeds."
6. In Matthew 13, who are the harvesters at the end of the age?
7. Complete this sentence, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are \_\_\_\_\_."
8. True or false? "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life."
9. In the parable of the sower, who went out to sow the seed?
10. Fill in the missing word in David's prayer, in Palm 51, "Purge me with \_\_\_\_\_, and I shall be clean."

**Answers:** 1. Ecclesiastes 3:2 2. Olive 3. Among thorns 4. Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4: 25-35) 5. Different (Deuteronomy 22: 92 6. Angels (Matthew 13:39) 7. Few (Luke 10:2). 8. True (Proverbs 11:30) 9. The farmer (Luke 8:5-15) 10. Hyssop

### COMMUNING WITH GOD TODAY

*"...It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" (Acts 1:7).*

*God gives me today,  
Just 24 hours to do His will.  
Yesterday is gone;  
tomorrow is yet to be.  
I will use each precious moment  
to live, to love, and to pray  
in the manner and purpose  
that He has chosen for me;  
and I am grateful for all the blessings  
in today.*

~ Evelyn Heinz

## The Super 60's Cracker Barrel

*Senior discounts are such fun;  
I love them, each and every one.  
I wish my doctor would agree,  
But he still charges his normal fee.*

*There is nothing like the end of winter  
And the joy that it imparts,  
When it goes its way and leaves behind  
Springtime in my heart.*

*We firmly disciplined our children,  
To improve their behavior a notch,  
But when they do the same with their kids,  
It's hard for grandparents to watch.*

*If you start seeing spots in front of your eyes,  
it may be time to clean your glasses,*

*To some people there's nothing like a home cooked meal,  
if its cooked by somebody else.*

*The ups and downs of life are often  
caused by a new pair of bifocals.*

**Nothing lasts forever - not even troubles**

**YOU KNOW YOU ARE GROWING OLDER ...WHEN  
YOUR CHILDREN BEGIN TO LOOK MIDDLE AGED.**

*Relatives are either bad or fine,  
depending on whether  
they're yours or mine.*

*Nothing will get the vacuum humming  
like a phone call saying  
company's coming.*

*Trying to remember someone's name  
Can make me come unstrung,  
Especially when it is sitting  
On the very tip of my tongue.*

## QUOTES WORTH REMEMBERING

I've noticed that everybody who is for abortion has already been born.

~Ronald Reagan

To be popular at home is a great achievement. The man who is loved by the house cat, the dog, the neighbor's children, and by his own wife is a great man even if he never had his name in Who's Who.

~Thomas Drier

"Be sure your sin will find you out." You may escape the law, but you cannot escape the consequences of sin. You may escape the law of man, but you cannot escape the law of God. There is no place where any man or woman can hide from God.

~Billy Sunday

Patrick Henry asked, "Give me liberty or give me death." Modern Americans simply say, "Gimmy."

~Vance Havner

God has condescended to become an author, and yet people will not read his writings. There are very few that ever gave this Book of God, the grand charter of salvation, one fair reading through.

~George Whitefield

Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time.

~Oswald Chambers

The Word of God is not a lullaby to put us to sleep but a reveille to wake us up.

~Vance Havner

What this country needs, is not a real job for every man but a real man for every job.

Footprints in the sands of time are not made while sitting down.

God was undertaker for Moses; God was upper-taker for Enoch and Elijah; God is caretaker for every believing child of His.

## THE MASTERPIECE

This morning my neighborhood  
Is such a beautiful sight.  
Flakes of snow are playing chase  
In a wild frenzy of white.

Freshly laundered sheets are spread  
Over the fields and meadows.  
Topknots are on the fence posts,  
Like crew cuts on old fellows.

Icicles hang from rooftops,  
And the frosty air smells sweet.  
Daffodils blooming in snow  
Are an unexpected treat.

This violent and sinful world  
Seems innocent and serene,  
When the Master's nail-scarred hand  
Paints a lovely winter scene.

~Barbara Ann Howze

## AN EARNEST PRAYER

Lord, help me to see the  
beauty in all Your world.  
Give me opportunity to lend  
a helping hand not only to  
those I know, but to  
strangers also. Help me to  
perform acts of kindness  
every day. Give me  
courage to share the  
wonderful news that God  
loves us all. Grant me  
wisdom to do those things  
You created me to do.  
Open my heart that I may  
be filled with faith,  
kindness, and charity. Help  
me to grow daily more  
like You.

~Elizabeth Redmond

## SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

My flowering crab apple tree was in full bloom. Rains of early spring made it more beautiful than it had ever been. The March winds came, and one morning I opened the door to see the ground covered with beautiful red and pink petals. It was such a lovely sight-a shower of apple blossoms. Yet I knew they would soon wither and die. I looked at the tree that had been so beautiful the day before. Now there were no blossoms left. How sad, I thought. Then I remembered that for that crab apple to bear fruit, those petals must fall.

The winds of life sometimes tear at us, bend us, and make us fall to our knees. But through these lessons we are able to bear fruit for Him who did so much for us.

~Ruth E. Reuther



## COMFORT IN DEPRESSION

When you're tempted to depression  
And all hope within you dies,  
When you're tired and feeling helpless  
And your song turns into sighs,

Remember there were other souls  
Who suffered just like you;  
God's most true and trusted servants  
Sometimes lived in darkness too.

For even in depression  
God will work His perfect will.  
He'll keep His hand upon you,  
And it won't be long until,

The light of love will shine again  
If you will just hold on;  
Because there cannot ever be  
A night without a dawn.

So trust God in your darkness  
And He will see you through,  
And you will find that joy and peace  
Will soon come back to you!

~Author Unknown

## ***HOLD BACK THE YEARS***

Hold back the years, so I can do  
A good and kindly deed.  
Hold back the years, so I may lend  
A hand to those in need.  
Hold back the years, so I might bring joy  
To someone's life I touch.  
Hold back the years until I say  
"I love you very much."  
Hold back the years, God, if You will,  
Just give me one day more  
To do all the good and caring things  
I should have done years before.

~Dee Knovicka

## ***AM I RIGHT WITH GOD?***

Have I kept an honest heart, an inquiring mind,  
Grown in spirit through study and prayer,  
Quelled selfish desire for another's needs,  
Bestowed the blessings of love and care?

Have I turned a frown into a smile,  
Gladdened another's heart today  
With kind or encouraging words  
Generously spoken along the way?

In church, home, at work or play, have I  
Shared the joy of fellowship and giving  
With family, neighbor, friend, or stranger  
Through friendliness and Christian living?

I pray for wisdom where I have failed  
In spirit, faith, or thoughtless deed.  
Seeking courage and strength to do His will,  
To be right with God is my only need.

~Marjorie Hobday



## ***WE NEED ONLY LOOK***

To renew our sense of  
awe and wonder  
We need only look in  
the right places  
At rainbows, sunsets,  
spring's green leaves,  
And the innocence  
in babies' faces.

~Mary Richstone

## **A NEW ATTITUDE**

Dear Lord,  
Quiet my thoughts,  
Still these Martha hands.  
Help me to put aside  
The mop and cook pots,  
So I can see  
Beyond the dusty corners.  
Let me sit awhile  
At Your feet,  
Listen to Your words  
And know peace.

Lord, make me like Mary,  
Committed to Thee.

~Eunice D. Barnes

## **ALONE WITH GOD**

Do you ever get up early  
And give God His justly praise,  
Watch the sun burst forth its beauty  
Through the pines and morning haze?

Do you take the time to thank Him  
For the night just spent in rest,  
And to ask for His directions  
For your life so richly blessed?

Do you ever really feel Him  
Touch your hand and softly say,  
"I am with you now and always-  
Grace sufficient for this day"?

Truly knowing He is with me,  
As the day starts bright and new,  
Gives me peace, joy, and contentment.  
He will do the same for you.  
~Dean Brooks Fields

## **REVELATIONS**

To learn diligence, Watch the busy ant.  
To learn peace, Watch the falling snow.  
To learn hope, Look at a sunrise.  
To learn love, Look to God above.  
~Sybil Haddock

## **SURVIVAL**

*An air of spring  
Washes over the damp,  
Early March drifts.*

*Icicles on eaves,  
Like running faucets,  
Drill holes in the snow.*

*The barn ridgepole  
Sighs as it straightens  
Its century-old back.*

*It has conquered  
another winter.*

~R. G. Hobday



## **VIEWPOINT**

The whole world, with  
its heartaches and  
illnesses, looks  
different when I live  
my life from the  
viewpoint of what  
God is within.  
"Christ in you,  
the hope of glory."  
~Geri Bowen



## **GENTILE WORDS**

Based on Colossians 3:12-17

Listen to the gentle words-  
Love, peace, prayer.  
Let them be a part of you  
Everywhere.

Let them fill your heart of hearts  
Every day.  
Hear the gentle words of God  
As you pray.

Listen to the gentle words-  
Kindness, care.  
Let them be a part of you  
For you to share.

Fill your speech with gentle words,  
Words that smile.  
Fill your deeds with gentle words  
All the while.

Listen to the gentle words,  
And help love grow.  
Clothe yourself with gentleness  
Wherever you go.  
~Jacqueline Schiff

## **TEARS**

Tears are not signs of weakness, but of strength. They can speak more eloquently than a thousand words.

Genuine tears are like crystals of the soul that show affection. Happy tears glitter like pearls of the sea.

Tears relieve the soul.

Tears speak for themselves. They tell their own story without a spoken word. The woman with the alabaster box of ointment, who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, dried them with her hair, and applied the ointment, never uttered a word. Her tears said it all (Luke 7:38). ~Elizabeth Redmond

## NEW LIFE

The misty mountains beckon all  
To come and be a part of spring,  
To watch the purple aura scene  
Become a fresh new shade of green.

Bare wood of winter now reflects  
New life hiding there at last,  
For tiny sprouts of green are seen  
Emerging from the frozen past.

The soul lies dormant like winter wood  
Until new life with Christ is found,  
And we emerge like fresh new spring  
To spread His tidings all around.

How beautiful is life with Him,  
Our Savior and our friend.  
New life with joy will fill the soul,  
And life's blessings never end.

~Annette Sharpe



## LOOKING FOR SPRING

*In calendar springtime  
I long to breathe deeply  
Of air warmed by sunshine,  
Free of frost and fog and salt.*

*I search among the fallen leaves,  
Not yet removed by winter squalls,  
For emerald shoots - a pledge  
Of pleasure yet to come.*

*I spirit myself to other lands,  
Dreaming of what will soon be,  
Basking on beaches, walking the shores,  
Hiking through verdant woods.*

*Thank You, Lord, for what we know  
Will surely dawn upon us as before,  
The long-awaited, longed for day-  
The inevitably of spring,  
~Betty Russian*

## THE SEASHORE

Jesus loved the sea! He walked along its shore and felt the peace and beauty. He knew the warmth of sand on sandaled feet and the joy of sunshine sparkling on the dancing waves.

Jesus also knew the matchless power of an angry sea with breakers pounding on the shores. The storm-tossed beach was a place of desolation, until the sweep of tide would clean its face.

He knew God's children face the same dilemma the shore does. Often their plans like sand castles are washed away. But in the ebb and flow is cleansing power; we feel the healing, kindly touch of God.

Jesus knew the peace the seaside can instill-serene, quiet moments when you can meditate with God.

~Sue Wright Entrekin

## IN HIS PRESENCE

As I sat on the deck reading, I became so absorbed in my book that I did not realize my neighbor had walked over and stood just a few feet away. Only after he spoke did I become aware of his presence.

So it is with my walk with Jesus. I often get so involved with my daily activities that, like the two men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-27), I fail to recognize the presence of Christ who walks with me.

I am so glad Jesus did not give up on those two who did not recognize Him. Instead, He walked with them, taught them, and stayed until they understood-just as He does with me.

~Dorothy C. Snyder

## A LITTLE PRAYER

If your feelings have been ruffled  
And your temper starts to rise,  
Instead of words to counter  
You will find that you are wise  
If you'll say a little prayer,  
Asking God to give you grace  
To silence your retorting  
And put kind words in its place.  
You will find that life is sweeter  
If when things are hard to bear,  
Instead of speaking rashly  
You will say a little prayer.

~Rachel Hartnett



## THE BIBLE SONG

It's hard to believe that a person can be blessed because she forgot to bring a Bible to church, but that's what happened to me.

One Sunday I somehow failed to put my small Bible in my purse. When the pastor gave his reference Scripture, I was not pre-occupied with searching for it. At that moment I heard one the most beautiful songs I have ever heard. In concert came the lovely song of hundreds of Bible pages being turned. Thin crisp pages flipping was heavenly music. It was a harmony rarely noticed or heard. This time I heard it.

The beautiful song included praise, love, joy, and devotion. It was a song like no other. Now that I've heard it, I know when to listen. What a blessing.

~Margaret Smith