

I Can't, but He Can

Approaching “the” milestone birthday I am taking stock of how my life has gone these past fifty years. Nothing has turned out as I planned when I was twelve. I don’t live in the sleek modern mansion on “Snob Hill”, Ferraris do not fill my six bay garage, I haven’t developed a cure for either cancer or stupidity, and I haven’t met Raquel Welch much less married her. Additionally, at twelve years of age I was pretty sure that fifty dollars a day could actually fund all that. The heart-break of reality compared to the unbridled optimism of the prepubescent mind.

Depressingly, it is easy to look back over the years and see one’s failings. I can cite numerous examples of when I could have been a better student, teacher, church member, business owner, neighbor, or son. There is little doubt that I have not been the husband my wife deserved or the father my children needed. Any fool can marry and sire children. To be a husband and father is something else entirely. I clearly failed to have the positive impact on earth I desired as the world is still rife with both cancer and stupidity. My failures continue to mount daily. I am simply not equipped to accomplish the task set before me.

One has to look beyond personal perception and the frailty of humanity to visualize what God can do through mankind. I am nothing, but God is everything. In fact because He is everything I must be nothing. (*And he said to me, My grace is enough for you, for my power is made complete in what is feeble. Most gladly, then, will I take pride in my feeble body, so that the power of Christ may be on me -- 2 Corinthians 12:9, Bible in Basic English*). It is only our faith, confidence, and position in Christ that propels us to any level of true greatness. (*For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength -- Philippians 4:13, New Living Translation*).

Few have the opportunity to witness any major direct cause and affect positive impact attributable to our (God guided) actions. One must consider that rearing and launching Godly children has an effect that is more far reaching than an individual parent could possibly accomplish. (*Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. -- Psalm 127:4, New American Standard Bible*)

To illustrate this concept, I respectfully submit the example of my great, great, Grandfather Fair. Great Papa Fair’s progeny consist of numerous pastors, several physicians (including a pioneering heart surgeon), university professors, scientists (including a world renowned geo-physicist), teachers, bank presidents, entrepreneurs, and many more that have lived, loved, and raised Christ honoring families. (*Praise the LORD! How joyful are those who fear the LORD and delight in obeying his commands. Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. -- Psalm 112:1-2, New Living Translation*). God, through our descendents can bless generations well beyond both our time and personal influence on earth

Who was my great, great, Grandfather? A farmer who simply followed God, loved his family, worked hard, and prayed regularly. He was no man of great means or education. I feel sure he was concerned about his family’s future and wished he could do more. He may have even had dreams that he

regretted not fulfilling. He was not unlike you and me, yet, through Christ in him, generations were blessed.

I can't, but, God can.

Evan Todd Yeager, Ed.D.