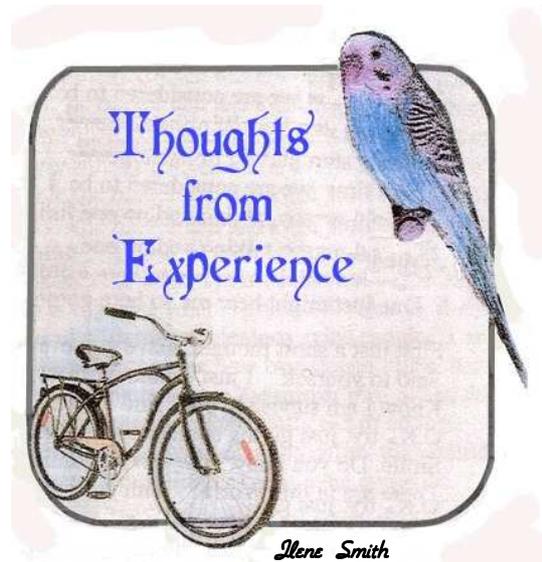


My Thoughts

by Mrs. Ilene Smith

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It is sad that we have to get so old before we really start putting things together. By that time, we are considered to be just an old person talking and nobody listens. I guess that there is always hope that someone might listen, so here goes:

First, just a short thought. Have you ever said to yourself, "I just cannot witness. I know that I'm supposed to, but I find it so hard."?

Okay. Try just giving someone a nice, big smile. Do you know how few real smiles there are in this world? With your smile, depending on the time of year, you can wish that person a friendly greeting, such as "Happy New Year," or "May you have a really great day," or "evening," or "week." Just seeing that person smile back is a real reward.

Many people look like they have forgotten how to smile. I tried this on one lady in a store. Her mouth was so turned down that it actually took her a while to get her smile muscles to work.

Many times, this is as far as things will go, but sometimes it leads into a conversation. Carry some simple Gospel tracts in your pocket, if you find it hard to talk. Just give them a *Four Spiritual Laws* tract and wish them a good day.

In my life, there are no such people as strangers. We were in a fast food place and my husband was ordering tea. I went to find a table. An older man at the next table was trying to eat a large hamburger, but it was falling apart and juice was running down his arm. He was embarrassed that I saw his problem. I just grinned and said, "You should put a big, rubber band on that thing!" He had a good laugh and I sat down.

When he was finished, he brought a newspaper over to our table, in case we wanted to read it. My husband, who had not seen the exchange before he came to our table, thanked him, and a conversation started. The man was really lonely and he is also a Christian. My husband talked to him for a while and prayed with him right there in the restaurant. We all left feeling the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon us.

Watch for people who are sure that people are talking against them. Most of these people are really lonely. Basically, they have cut off people who have tried to be friendly with them. You will find a lot of these people in care homes, hospitals, or living alone.

Their imagination has taken over their minds, and Satan has filled their thoughts with lies. Most are sure that nobody loves them. They are very alone. Many of them think that someone whom they really love hates them. If they would only make the effort to open their hearts to these loved ones, they would be amazed to find that the person thought it was the other way around. These people will give you a tough challenge and a real ministry.

Then there are people who are full of jealousy. The Song of Solomon says jealousy is cruel as the grave, that it burns like coals of fire.

Jealousy will bring spiritual and physical death. The problem seems to walk hand in hand with an out of control imagination. It can cause all kinds of bad situations and misunderstandings.

A younger child can think that an older child in the family is his parents' favourite because the older one got the new bike, and the younger one only got that bike passed down to him when he was old enough to ride a bike. That thinking can spoil a good relationship between children. The older one is not aware of what is wrong with the younger one, and neither are the parents, because it made sense to give the smaller bike to the younger child after the older one outgrew it.

The older child got a replacement bike that was bigger, and, yes, it was new, but not because the older child was the favourite, but because he had outgrown the small bike. With this kind of thinking, the younger child then sees all kinds of things that make him think that he is not loved, when the parents are only trying to balance an overloaded budget.

Recently, we decided to buy two, young budgie birds. They are really young. We have had birds before, but never two at the same time. One is green and yellow, and the other bright blue and white. Watching these birds has been very interesting.

We are out a lot during the day, and we thought they would enjoy company, so we put a mirror in their cage. The blue budgie is very worried that the green one might like the bird in the mirror better than her. Whenever she sees him near the mirror, she will try to chase him away. She tries to bite the mirror and has even pulled the mirror out, so that she can get to the bird behind the mirror. In her little bird mind, she is ready to fight that other bird.

I don't think that the green bird has any idea what is going on. This is the kind of damage that a jealous spirit can do. I am watching that the blue budgie doesn't hurt herself trying to chase the mirror bird out of the cage.

Jealousy, when really out of control, can turn very cruel. Quite often, the second person has no idea what is even going on.

We need to be very careful and forgiving. We need to watch our thoughts and keep our minds clear before the Lord. Satan has so many tricks. Watch your older friends and even your own thoughts; the enemy of our soul will try all kinds of tricks to wear us down.

In God's plan for the family, He intended that there would be several generations living close to each other. The children need the grandparents or an older friend, who will spend time talking and listening to them. In the Body of Christ (the Church), all ages need each other. There is a place for us all.



“In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.”

Isaiah 26:1-4



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