

The Perfect Comparison

When my son was in second grade, he brought home a math test with a poor grade. Before I could say anything, he started his defense. “If you think this is bad, you should see David’s test. He missed twice as many as I did.”

Making comparisons—in order to make ourselves look better—seems to be built into our DNA. What better way to push negative attention away from ourselves?

“You think I’m driving fast? What about the guy who just zoomed past me?”

“You think our lawn has too many weeds? The Wilsons’ yard down the street looks like a jungle.”

“You think I’m messy? You ought to see Nathan’s room. He can’t find his bed.”

All of us can find someone who has a few more faults than we do.

When it comes to our status before God, this line is familiar: “I may not be perfect, but I’m no worse than the next person.” The idea is that if we are a half-step ahead of someone else, then God will think we’re okay. We carefully select someone with whom we can compare ourselves favorably. Convenient, isn’t it?

God declared there is one standard—Jesus Christ—and that we are to compare ourselves only to him “who never sinned” (2 Corinthians 5:21). That changes the picture, doesn’t it? Honestly comparing ourselves with Jesus reveals the truth—that “we all fall short of God’s glorious standard” (Romans 3:23).

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Only if we make an honest appraisal of ourselves and recognize our sins will we be forgiven by a just and merciful God—if we ask for his pardon. God “will not reject a broken and repentant heart” (Psalm 51:17). Forgiveness and salvation are for those who recognize they don’t measure up.

You need only to acknowledge your sins, turn to God, and by faith, accept Jesus as your Savior. When you do, you’ll receive “the right to become children of God” (John 1:12), with eternal life as your inheritance.

You can make that decision today. Don’t wait.

[Jim Kraus]

NAME &
ADDRESS:

HAVE A GOOD DAY AND A SPLENDID *forever!*



|| June 2018 ||

Dog Gone Reunion

On Nicole Renae’s 10th birthday, her grandmother surprised her with a puppy. Nicole named the dog Chloe, and they became inseparable.

Only four years later, Nicole’s father began working from home in his new job—with one stipulation. Their home had to be free of noise—especially a yappy dog.

Heartbroken, Nicole surrendered Chloe to the humane society, but she never forgot her friend.

Eight years passed. Nicole, now a wife and mother, wanted to add a dog to their family. A Facebook post about a senior dog that needed a new home got her attention. The dog looked familiar and, lo and behold, was named Chloe. “I thought that was such a coincidence,” Nicole says.

She decided to adopt this “new” Chloe. As soon as they met, Chloe started licking Nicole’s face, acting as if she knew this kind young woman. “I was crying—it reminded me so much of my Chloe,” Nicole says. “I just knew in my heart that it was her.”

So Nicole had her veterinarian scan the dog for a microchip. When she checked that number against “old” Chloe’s number, it was a match.

Reunited with her best friend, Chloe was finally home.

“Chloe is happy,” says Nicole. “I think she knows now that she’ll be with me forever.”



Ultimate All-Nighter

The 1965 science fair at Point Loma High School in San Diego was coming up, and 17-year-olds Randy Gardner and Bruce McAllister were still scrambling for a project. When they heard about a man who'd set a world record for staying awake, they decided to study the effects of sleep deprivation—aiming to beat the record.

Gardner was chosen to be the subject, and Stanford University sleep researcher Dr. William Dement volunteered to be one of the observers.

The teenager clocked just over 264 hours without sleep, breaking the world record. Afterward, he went to a naval hospital, where his recovery was documented.

Although a handful of others have claimed longer sleepless periods, Gardner's Guinness world record still stands. The record trackers no longer accept potentially mentally dangerous record attempts.



Gerber Picks a Winner

When you are a company that focuses on babies, you need a little one to represent you. Every year, the Gerber company chooses a new spokesbaby, a tradition that began in 2010. This year's photo submissions for the perfect Gerber baby totaled more than 140,000 entries. They found him in Lucas Warren, from Dalton, Georgia. Lucas also happens to have Down syndrome, making him the first Gerber baby with a special need.

According to the company, Lucas is a perfect fit for the honor, exemplifying Gerber's longstanding heritage of recognizing that every baby is a Gerber baby.

Lucas's mom, Cortney, is thrilled. "He's very outgoing and never meets a stranger," she says. "He may have Down syndrome,

but he's always Lucas first. He's got an awesome personality and he goes through the milestones of every child. We're hoping when he grows up and looks back on this, he'll be proud of himself and not ashamed of his disability."



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Some Spud

Potatoes—one of today's favorite foods—were once considered poisonous "devil's apples." Originally grown in the Peruvian Andes, papas were dismissed by the Spanish conquistadors as "primitive." But when food became scarce and the conquerors were forced to eat them, their opinion changed.

Europeans initially balked at these "edible stones." Farmers grew them, but only to feed their livestock.

The potato's popularity began to rise after Frenchman Antoine Parmentier promoted their nutritional value, crediting the staple

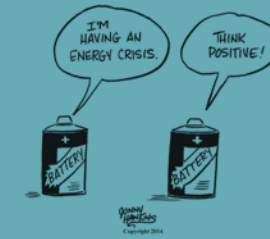
for his survival when he was imprisoned during the Seven Years' War. The potato enthusiast made sure Benjamin Franklin had a helping at a banquet in Paris in 1767. Impressed by their taste and versatility, the statesman spread the word back home and the potato effectively pushed turnips and rutabagas off the plate.



Small Word Runs Long

Simple, three-letter words are far from simple anymore—at least according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. For nine months, a professional lexicographer focused on the plethora of potential meanings of one small word—*run*—and arrived at 645 different usages in the verb form alone. When the OED's third edition comes out in 2037, the definitions for *run* will fill 75 columns.

Run through some of the meanings. People run for public office; a CEO runs a company; baseball players run bases. You run software on your computer and get a ticket when you run a red light. A train running on diesel fuel runs commuters between Philadelphia and New York. The cast of a Broadway show hopes for a successful run. Shall we keep this running?



It is easy to entertain some people. All you have to do is sit and listen.

Look backward with gratitude and forward with confidence.

A diplomatic man is one who remembers his wife's birthday, but not her age.