

Advice for the Young

by Wayne Goff

It seems like only yesterday that I was that *young, upcoming gospel preacher* in Arkansas. Now I am *that older guy* in Kansas City. It happens fast, but I've enjoyed every minute of my life as a Christian and preacher.

A few years ago, I was invited to speak to the assembly at Florida College, so I wrote down a number of things I wanted to tell these young people who were sitting where I once sat. I came up with about sixteen different tips that I had learned, which would have taken an hour or two to pass on to an audience full of mostly disinterested young people. So I never gave that speech. I had about five minutes to talk so I gave one piece of advice which I had received from a college professor at Florida when I was a student there. It made an impression on me as a young man, and it was still valuable all these years later.

Perhaps some day I will get around to working up a sermon or two on those sixteen points. Most of them are lessons others have taught me over the years. I haven't learned anything really "new" in my life, but I have learned many valuable lessons.

In this article, let me simply give you that one piece of advice which I learned from my college professor. He didn't put it this way at the time, so this is *my rendition* of it: **Don't despise the day of small things** (Zechariah 4:10).

Life is affected more by the everyday activities, mundane as they might be. Good habits practiced *daily* make for such a comfortable life. Those who are always waiting around for the *day of big things* wind up being very miserable and unhappy people.

Likewise, **the most valuable advice** I've received over the years came clothed in ordinary circumstances and seemed unimportant at the time. But I *listened . . . and learned . . . and remembered . . . and one day understood*. Then that ordinary moment took on its own brilliance. James 1:19 says, "*So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.*" Young people, you'll learn more by being *quick* to hear, by *tuning in*, and by really *listening* to what is being said. It may seem unimportant at the time you hear it, but one day . . .

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