

# THE SDB Woman

## Procrastination vs. Preparation

I don't think I'm alone when I admit that I hang out on the "procrastination" side of the fence way too often. As a matter of fact, I'm over here so often that I've lost "guest privileges" and have to make my own breakfast. Which explains why I'm typing away on the night of my submission deadline.

It's another case of being "too busy" until time runs out—a horrible habit of mine. But is it a *bad* habit? It's not like I'm killing anyone, stealing, or even coveting. Just who decides what's good or bad?

Whoa, now! Hold everything! We *do* have Someone who knows the good from the bad, and He cared enough to give us an instruction manual that's chock full of examples, advice, and anecdotes. So what does the Bible have to say about my procrastination? Read Proverbs 31:10-31. These are familiar verses:

"She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household... She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard" (Prov. 31:13-16).

Whew! That's a busy woman! I really don't think that she could get all of that done if she were procrastinating and wasting her time. This certainly is a pretty specific example of how God wants me to be using MY time.

Okay, so I recognize and admit that this is a problem. Is that enough? Of course not! Just because you can see you're in a garbage dump doesn't make you smell any better. Obviously, I need to take

steps towards curtailing this bad habit.

No, I'm not going to start listing all of my strategies; different things work for different people. If something hasn't been working, then it needs to be approached from a different angle. I will, however, recommend that we all start with a prayer for guidance and help.

We often "admit" we have a problem, but that's as far as we go. It may be difficult to admit that we have stains on our clothes, but it's takes a lot more effort to clean dirty laundry.

We all have bad habits. If we search our Bibles carefully,

we'll discover that God clearly tells us how He wants us to behave. He addresses gluttony, gossip, idleness, and other human behaviors. Yet these are things that we often laugh about having a problem with (not that laughter's bad), but then never take steps to control it. Or we try, only to give up.

I hope and pray that none of us quit as we keep working towards the perfection that God wants for each of us. With God's help, we can succeed. He wants us to be—and do—our best. And since He made us, you can bet that we're all capable of a pretty good "best."

## Solomon's Wisdom

And now, I will attempt to read your minds!

Think of a number between 1 and 10 (but not 1 or 10) and multiply it by 9. Add together the two digits of our answer and subtract 5. Now, if A=1, B=2, C=3 and so on, find the letter that corresponds to the number you are left with, and think of a country that begins with that letter. Now think of a four-legged animal whose name begins with the SECOND letter of that country. Got one? Good. Now turn to the back page to see if I'm correct.

## Help! ...

Once again, I'd like to let everyone know that stories, poems, recipes, etc. would be a welcome sight to me. I can't promise that everything will be printed, but it sure would be nice to have an abundance of material on hand. Contributions can be sent to:

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## Share Time

Gail Price of the Carraway SDB Church in Florida found another story that should leave you feeling good:

### *Keep your fork*



A woman was diagnosed with a terminal illness and was given three months to live. As she was getting her things in order, she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at her service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. She also requested that her favorite Bible be buried with her.

Everything was in order. As the pastor prepared to leave, the woman suddenly remembered something.

"There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" the pastor asked.

"This is very important," the woman replied. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The pastor stared at the woman, not knowing what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" she said.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puz-

zled," the pastor answered.

Then the woman explained.

"I attended church socials and potluck dinner for years. When the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would invariably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part of the meal because I knew that something better was coming—a velvety chocolate cake or a deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful and with substance!

"I want people to see me there in the casket with a fork in my hand, wondering, 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them, 'Keep your fork. The best is yet to come.'"

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman good-bye. He knew this might be the last time he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She *knew* that something better was coming.

At the funeral, people walked past the woman's casket and

saw the pretty dress she was wearing, her favorite Bible, and the fork in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And he smiled over and over.

During his message, the pastor repeated the conversation that he had had with the woman shortly before her death. He told them about

the fork and what it symbolized. He also told the people that he couldn't stop thinking about the fork, and that they probably wouldn't be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right.

The next time *you* reach down for your fork, let it remind you that the best is yet to come.

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## Potluck Picks

Here's a finger lickin' treat all the way from the Aleutian Islands. Thanks go to Darla Welcome.



### *"Darla's Sweet Wings"*

1 bag (3-4 lb.) chicken wings/drumettes  
1 can (15 oz.) chicken broth  
green onions, chopped (optional)  
1/4 cup soy sauce and 1/2 cup of cooking sherry  
1 1/2 + cups of sugar

Place wings in a skillet large enough to hold all of them (I like to use an electric skillet). Combine the soy sauce, cooking sherry, and sugar in a 2-cup measuring cup. Keep adding sugar until the mixture level reaches the 2 cup mark.

Combine this mixture with the chicken broth and pour over the wings. Bring to a boil and then simmer, uncovered, until the sauce has thickened to a syrup consistency (about 35-45 minutes), and remove from heat. As the chicken cools to an edible temperature, the sauce will thicken more.

*Hint:* If you have reduced the sauce too much, you will need warm, moist clothes to deal with the extra stickiness.

*Answer to Solomon's Wisdom:* Did you think of Denmark and an elephant? Okay, so this isn't exactly a brain puzzle, but can you figure out how it's done?