

Little Things Can Amp Your Faith or Kill It

Remembering things past, I can see clearly now many times when I received evidence and even confirmation that there was indeed a God up there. Very often though, it has been the little things, the traces, the hints and odd coincidences that have given me my “Ah Ha” moments.

God specializes in dropping bread crumbs for his little Hansels and Gretels to follow, despite the ever-present ravens and mocking birds, eager to peck them up or scratch them out. The title of a popular 1950's hit says it well. “Little things mean a lot.”

I had my wife Audrey Google up the words; dig these: “Blow me a kiss from across the room/ Say I look nice when I'm not/ Touch my hair when you pass my chair/ Little things mean a lot.// Give me your hand when I've lost my way/ Give me your shoulder to cry on/ Whether the skies be bright or gray, Give me your heart to rely on.” Another hit from that time says it also: “All of the sudden my heart sings/ When I remember little things.” Or how about “These Foolish Things/ Remind me of you?”

A scornful might say, “Bah! Just silly sentimental love songs!” But I would argue such songs proclaim one of the major themes running throughout literature, and likely inspired by the Bible, or at least its Author.

Notice that every mystery story traces “little things” called clues. Sometimes a single matchbook or finger print or dna molecule proves the guilt or innocence of the suspect. In astronomy, a little blur in the telescope can hide a galaxy with billions of stars like The Andromeda.

A key to understanding the Bible is knowing that a little thing, a “seed,” was God's instrument for sending us His son. He planted it in the wilderness of fallen

humanity. Psalm 22:30 prophesies that “a seed shall serve him.” and later adds “it shall be accounted for the Lord for a generation, a people yet to be born.” Those people “yet to be born” are us, and the seed, planted in the womb of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, carried the incarnation of His son.

The key motive for collecting instances of supernatural events is to prove “that God **is**, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” and that He cares about our comparatively trivial problems. Heb 11:6.

Denominations differ greatly on the evidence they believe and create doctrines accordingly. The charismatics and Full Gospel people seem to see proofs everywhere and are quick to emotionally shout about it, but most main line evangelicals, and intellectually focused churches, like the Unitarians, demand rigorous logical support for their beliefs.

My close friend and mentor, Rufus Bellamy insisted that emotionalism, Like David’s dancing before the Lord, wasn’t enough; like C. S. Lewis, he believed the logic of Paul, and the integrity of the scriptures makes them more than able to withstand even the most rigorous intellectual analysis.

Surely both sides make their case. And when I see how brilliantly the case is made supporting the resurrection of Jesus, we really have something to shout about. In the joy of it, “All of the sudden my heart sings.” Because if “His eye is on the sparrow,/ Then I know he watches me.” “Joy to the World!”

Gene Pinkney 11/30/24 For the Daily News.