

Never Be Afraid To Try

By Rev. Lee Truman
Copley News Service

In one of the world's greatest devotional classics, "Imitation of Christ," Thomas A. Kempis tells a story about a man who was so anxiety driven and afraid that he could not bring himself to do anything.

He wavered back and forth in his uncertainty. Over and over he said, "Oh, if I only knew, then I would have the courage to persevere." And presently, wrote Kempis, the man heard within himself an answer from God.

In the still small voice of conscience the words were spoken, "And if you did know, what would you do? Go now and do what you would then do, and you should be very secure and not afraid."

This practical rule of living not only stops worry in its tracks, but also other apprehensions we all feel in daily life.

Let me illustrate. You cannot be certain that an admired acquaintance will enjoy visiting your home. But you might ask him to come if you were reasonably certain it would be an invitation he would accept and an occasion that he would enjoy. The point of what Kempis has said is to invite him as if you were sure.

You cannot be sure that your child will graduate, let alone distinguish himself, if you send him on to college. It is an expensive investment and there are no guarantees. But send him off to college as if you are sure that he will do well!

You can't be certain that you will be promoted in your job if you put extra work into it, but how can you satisfy yourself or even live at peace with yourself if you do not proceed as if you were sure there is success down the road?

There are practical examples in everyone's life. Each man has to decide how to act "as if" for himself.

These have proved to be useful words for many great men. Before you brush the idea off, remember it is the kind of star you can read on the blackest night. The results often will not be what you hope for, but the reward is to know you have done your best and that you have given opportunity a chance.

This produces in yourself that inner peace which is the best kind of security. As Dorothea Brende said, "Act as if it were impossible to fail." With that attitude you are halfway to success.

The rest of the way is down-hill.

Thanks to Oliver Miles, Supt. Joliet Country Club.

AN INCH OF RAIN IS A LOTTA WATER

When the weatherman says "an inch of rain fell today" it doesn't sound like much water, does it?

Believe it, it IS a lot of water!

An inch of rain falling evenly on one acre of ground is equivalent to about 27,154 gallons of water, according to hydrologists of the U.S. Geological survey. Here's how it's determined: One inch of rain falling evenly over one acre (43,650 square feet) of ground would amount to a total of 6,272,640 cubic inches of water. This is equivalent to 3,630 cubic feet of water. A cubic foot of water weighs about 62.4 pounds. Therefore, the weight of a uniform fall of one inch of rain over one acre would be about 226,615 pounds, or 113 1/4 short tons. The weight of one U.S. gallon of pure water is about 8.3 pounds. Consequently, a rain-fall of one inch over one acre would mean about 27,154 gallons of water.

"Simple multiplication," notes the survey, "reveals how water would fall over a given city, if it fell evenly. For example, an even inch of rain over the District of Columbia (44,000 acres) would amount to about 1.2 billion gallons of water."

What happens to the water after it reaches the ground depends upon many factors such as rate of rainfall, topography, soil condition, humidity, density of vegetation, extent of urbanization, etc. Of the total amount of water, about 25 per cent would run off immediately; about 15 per cent would be evaporated; about 40 per cent would be taken up by surface soil; and about 20% would filter down into sub-surface, water bearing roots (aquifers).

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