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[^0]I have been looking around and I still haven't seen anyone wearing a "Build Back Better" cap.


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My life is based on a true story.

The 50-5-90 rule. Anytime you have a 50-50chance of getting something right there's a 90\% probability you'll get it wrong.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

The only cure for insomnia is to get more sleep.

I wish the buck stopped here. I could use a few.

Cows wear bells because their horns don't work.

On the night before Thanksgiving, a butcher was about to lock up his store and go home. Before he can get to the backdoor, a man started pounding on the front door begging the butcher to let him in.
"Please let me in. I forgot to buy a turkey, and my wife's going to kill me if I go home empty-handed." The butcher sympathizes with the man and lets him in. The butcher told the man that he has to look around as he's almost sold out. The man nodded and nervously waited while the butcher opened one freezer after another. He opened the last freezer and noticed the last turkey. He brought it out to the man and placed it on the counter. "That one is too skinny. What else you got?" asked the man.
Knowing that there were no more turkeys, the butcher went to the back, waited a few moments, and brought out the same turkey.
The man still looked nervous and said that this one is not any better. The man had an idea, and told the butcher, "Tell you what. Give me both of them."


I don't need a gun. I have never needed a gun. I hope I never need a gun, and in all likelihood, I will never need a gun. However, should I ever need a gun, I better have a gun, therefore I have a gun. If the government ever says you can't have a gun, that's when you'll need a gun.

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## AT THE SUPERMARKET

On a wintry day, my 90 year-old neighbor was in the supermarket trying to pay for his groceries. Bundled up against the cold, his gloved hands were having trouble retrieving and counting the exact change. The transaction evidently took too long for the man behind him in line, who muttered a curse.
My neighbor stopped counting, turned around and warned "be quiet or I'll write a check."

What if "Go and sin no more" wasn't a heavy commandment heaped upon our shoulders, but a joyous proclamation of our freedom from the chains of it? ~ Therese Reece

## Windows: Please enter your new password.

 User: potatoesWindows: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters long.
User: baked potatoes
Windows: Sorry, the password must contain at least one numerical character.
User: 3 baked potatoes
Windows: Sorry, the password cannot have any blank spaces.
User: 75bigdumbstinkinbakedpotatoes
Windows: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case letter.
User: 75bigDUMBstinkinbakedpotatoes
Windows: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case letter consecutively
User:
75BigDumbStinkinBakedPotatoesSmashedInYo urFaceIfYouDontGiveMeAccessRightNow!
Windows: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.
User:
75BigDumbStinkinBakedPotatoesSmashedInYo urFaceIfYouDontGiveMeAccessRightNowAndRi ghtThisVeryMinute Windows: Sorry, that password is already in use.

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We are so thankful for, ya'll!
Happy Thanksgiving!
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If your religion requires that you hate someone, you need a new religion.


Alaska is both the Westernmost and Easternmost part of the United States.

## Morning and Night happen at the same time in Russia

Even considering Russia's massive size, it's still incredible to learn that Russia has a whopping 11 time zones out of the 24 in the entire world! This means that on one side of Russia, the country is waking up at 7am, while the other side is about to sit down for dinner.

Dear Melyna, I tried to come in and get your tooth but there were so many clothes and toys on the floor, I tripped and fell. I am going to come back tonight.
please make sure your room is clean so I won't hurt myself again.

Tooth Fairy

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags in the house?

Our government is insanely
spending trillions of dollars every year. On What?
I doubt if anyone really knows. We really have no idea or sense of how much bigger

1 billion $\$ \$ \$$ is than
1 million $\$ \$ \$$ and certainly not any idea how much bigger
1 trillion $\$ \$ \$$ is than 1 billion $\$ \$ \$$.
For some perspective...
1 million seconds is over 11 days.
1 billion seconds is over 31.5 years.
1 trillion seconds is over 31,500 years


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## Kials R Funny!

While grabbing a snack I noticed we were out of cookies that I had recently bought from the grocery. My 5 year old son, said ninjas had eaten them. I said that I hadn't seen them, and he said "No one ever does."


Laughs \& Lifts NOVEMBER 2023 Issue 183 Page 13 LaughsandLifts.com

## I wish I was as fat as I was the first time I thought I was fat.



## GREEN BEANS WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS \& ALMONDS 6-8 SERVINGS

 Ingredients- Kosher salt
- 3 pounds green beans, trimmed
- $1 / 2$ cup skin on sliced almonds
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 large onions, sliced thin
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme leaves
- Freshly ground black pepper


## Directions

1. Fill a large high sided skillet with some water, adding enough to be just shy of the rim of the pan by about 1 inch. Place over high heat and bring up to boil; add a big pinch of salt and the green beans. Cook for about 5 minutes, the beans should still be crisp. Drain the beans and then run them under some cold water to stop them from cooking. Reserve the beans while you start the onions.
2. Return the skillet you cooked the beans in to the cook top over medium heat. Add the almonds and toast stirring every now and then until golden, about 3 to 5 minutes. Remove the almonds from the skillet and reserve. Return the skillet to the heat and add the butter and olive oil and heat until the butter has melted. Add the onions, season with salt and pepper, and cook stirring frequently until the onions caramelize, 20 to 25

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## Thanksgiving Sides

minutes. Add the thyme, and cook for another 5 minutes. Add the cooked cooled green beans and almonds, and stir well to combine. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

## CREAMED CORN CORNBREAD

## 8 SERVINGS

## Ingredients

- 2 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder

- $1 / 2$ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup creamed corn
- 2 tablespoons canola oil


## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Place a 10 -inch cast iron skillet into the oven.
3. In a bowl, combine the cornmeal, salt, sugar, baking powder, and baking soda. Whisk together to combine well.
4. In a large bowl, combine the buttermilk, eggs, and creamed corn, whisking together to combine thoroughly. Add the dry ingredients to the buttermilk mixture and stir to combine. If the batter will not pour, add more buttermilk to the batter.
5. Swirl the canola oil in the hot cast iron skillet. Pour the batter into the skillet. Bake until the cornbread is golden brown and springs back upon the touch, about 20 minutes.

## ROASTED GARLIC MASHED POTATOES

## 8 servings <br> Ingredients

- 5 pounds russet or Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and rinsed
- $11 / 2$ sticks regular salted butter,
 plus more for dotting
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- $1 / 4$ cup or so half-and-half
- A splash heavy cream
- Salt and black pepper
- 3 to 5 heads roasted garlic


## A mother's love is unconditional.... Her temper is another matter entirely.

## Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F .
2. Dice the potatoes and boil in a pot of water until fork tender, 25 to 30 minutes. Drain and return to the pan over low heat. Mash the potatoes for 5 minutes to allow a lot of the steam to escape.
3. Add the butter, cream cheese, half-and-half, cream, some salt, pepper and roasted garlic. Stir/mash to combine. Test and adjust the seasonings.
4. Spread the potatoes into a large buttered baking dish. Dot the top with butter. Bake until heated through, about 30 minutes.

## Roasted Brussels Sprouts and Cinnamon Butternut Squash with Pecans and Cranberries

## Ingredients

- Roasted Brussels Sprouts:
- 3 cups Brussels sprouts , ends trimmed, yellow leaves removed
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- $1 / 4$ teaspoon Salt to taste
- Roasted Butternut Squash:

- $11 / 2 \mathrm{lb}$ butternut squash peeled, seeded, and cubed into 1 -inch cubes (Yields about 4 cups of uncooked cubed butternut squash)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons maple syrup
- $1 / 2$ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Other Ingredients:
- 2 cups pecan halves
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 2-4 tablespoons maple syrup optional

Instructions

## How to roast Brussels Sprouts:

Preheat oven to 400 F. Lightly grease the foil-lined baking sheet with 1 tablespoon of olive oil.
Trim ends of Brussels sprouts and remove yellow leaves. Then, slice all Brussels sprouts in half. In a medium bowl, combine halved Brussels sprouts, 2 tablespoons of olive oil, salt (to taste), and toss to combine. Place onto a foil-lined baking sheet, cut side down, and roast in the oven at 400 F for about 20-25 minutes. During the last 5-10 minutes of roasting, turn them over for even browning, the cut sides should be nicely and partially charred but not blackened (see my photos).

## How to roast Butternut Squash:

Preheat oven to 400 F. Lightly grease the foil-lined baking sheet with 1 tablespoon of olive oil.
In a medium bowl, combine cubed butternut squash (peeled and seeded), 1 tablespoon of olive oil, maple syrup, and cinnamon, and toss to mix.

Place butternut squash in a single layer on the baking sheet. Bake for 20-25 minutes, turning once half-way through baking, until softened.
Note: You can roast both Brussels sprouts and butternut squash on 2 separate baking sheets at the same time, on the same rack in the oven - that's what I did.

## How to toast pecans:

Toast pecans in the preheated oven at 350 F Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
Toast the pecans for about 5 minutes (maybe a bit longer) in the preheated oven at 350 F until they get darker in color.
Note: pecans burn really fast, so make sure to check the nuts after 5 minutes and frequently afterwords.
Assembly:
In a large bowl, combine roasted Brussels sprouts, roasted butternut squash, pecans, and cranberries, and mix to combine.
(OPTIONAL): For more sweetness, add 2 or 4 tablespoons of maple syrup, if desired - do not add all maple syrup at once, start with 2 tablespoons, then add more, if desired, and toss with the salad ingredients to combine.


Join us here, Father, as we celebrate your abundant blessings and provision. You are good to us, your children. You alone are worthy of our praise today. You are our God. Bless the time we have together, the words we speak, the love we share. Bless this meal prepared by loving hands. We bow before you with grateful hearts. Join us, O God. Amen. it on speaker phone so I can get both sides of the argument.

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## Dear God,

Bless my future with turn arounds.
Turn my lack into plenty, Turn my confusion into clarity. Turn my test into a testimony. Bless my future with breakthroughs, miracles and change.
It is in the name of Jesus, I pray.
A man, his wife and his mother-in-law were visiting the Holy Land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away. An undertaker told them "you can have her shipped home for $\$ 5000$, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150."
The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home. The undertaker asked "Why? Why would you spend
 \$5000 to ship your mother-in-law home, when it would be wonderful to have her buried here and only spend $\$ 150$ ?"
The man said, "A man died 2000 years ago. He was buried here and 3 days later, he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance."

Please consider giving Laughs and Lifts subscriptions as the perfect Christmas gift. See the top of page 2 for instructions.

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## Contributors:

Wallace Kennedy, Jr. Life of Thanksgiving Hayes Wise, Wise Words Tric Glenn, Aunt T's Kitchen
Dee Gilbert, Claybank Master Gardeners

?
Daughs and Lifts Magazine


## A WONDERFUL LIFE OF THANKSGIVING

By Wallace Kennedy, Jr.
Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful time to reflect upon the goodness of God! And God has been and still is good to each of us continuously.

Thanksgiving needs to be the attitude of the believer at all times. This is God's will! In every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. 1Thessalonians 5:18 (AMP)
Sometimes the point of being a Christian gets put in a box of going to church, saying a prayer before a meal, or reading our Bible from time to time. Those things are all great and should be elements of one's faith, but according to: Colossians 3:17, Everything you say and everything you do should be done for Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus. (ERV)
Our entire being is a reflection to others what Jesus is actually like. And everything we do and say should lead toward gratitude.
This may seem like an impossible task, but there is actually a science to this. As we practice being "Thankful" in our mind and in our speech, it actually rewires pathways in our brain in a way that trains us to live our whole lives through lenses of gratitude.
Consider keeping a journal of thankfulness or verbally practicing gratitude one or two times per-day with the people in your life and see if it changes anything within you. You may be the person in their lives who can represent the best picture of Jesus for them. Please understand this: "We maybe be the only Bible some people will read".
Whatever we do or say, do it as a representative of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray: Father God, train our thoughts and speech to be grateful so we reflect the heart and character of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.
Happy Thanksgiving! May the Lord answer your prayers and give you peace.'

Black Friday: The day people spend money they don't have on things they don't need.

## "Wise Words" <br> By: Hayes Wise What Is The Condition Of Your Condition?

Kenny Rogers had a song "Just Dropped In" that talks about checking on your condition. Some say it's about mental illness, others say it's about an LSD experience. One of the lyric lines caught my eye, "I pushed my soul in a deep dark hole and then I followed it in..." Mental illness and drug use are real. One not asked for and the other is self-induced. No matter what, they both need professional help in dealing with it. I can tell you this, both would benefit greatly with God's help. There are a lot of other people out there that would see life different if God was a major part of it. A 2016 study compared members of a traditional religious group with atheists and agnostics. The latter group scored lower on measures of happiness, positive affect, and self-esteem. They were also more likely to experience symptoms of anxiety and depression. They are experiencing the consequences of "pushing their soul in a deep dark hole". They choose to do that. I want to speak to those that don't want that type of life but think they are too far gone for God to help. No one is so far gone that God can't help. God sees what we will become, not necessarily what we are, and His Word proves it.
God uses flawed folks. He doesn'† cast us out when we deserve it. Noah had sex with someone other than Mrs. Noah. Moses killed someone. Jacob lied and stole. Samson was immoral. Gideon was fearful. Rahab was a prostitute. David had an affair and then had someone murdered to cover it up. Jonah ran from God. The disciples fell asleep when they should have been praying for Jesus, and Simon Peter openly denied the Lord, not once but three times. There are many more examples of failed people that God put right. What God did for them he'll do for you. There is no sinner too far gone, that the grace of God can't reach. "But where sin increased, grace increased all the more". (Rom 5:20). There is forgiveness for each and every one of us. But first you have to admit the condition of your condition and ask God for help.


# CLAYBANK MASTER GARDENERS <br> Greetings Gardener Friends, 

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 Dinner \& drinks: \$100-no problem Watch Netflix: 2 hrs - 1 more episode Learn a new skill: 2 hrs - no time Life is about choices, stop blaming the "lack of opportunity."

America is like a healthy body and it's resistance is threefold:
It's patriotism, it's morality, and it's spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas,

America will collapse from within.
~ Joseph Stalin
Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do.

## It's not really a Hashtag \#\#\#

Those of the Twitter generation call it a hashtag. Those from the pre-Twitter dinosauric era will call it the pound sign. Both are correct, yet not technically. The correct official name of the tic-tac-toe looking sign is an Octothorp.

Oh happy days are here again! We're so thankful for Fall cooler temperatures and welcome relief from the heat and humidity of what must have been the world's hottest summer! However, the lack of rain has brought other challenges. If you are in a drought area, try setting up a couple of rain barrels
 under your roof line, and invest in a short gutter that directs water into your barrels. Our two 55 -gallon olive barrels (pickle barrels are also good), and one heavy duty garbage can all have screen covers. A good spray of neem oil on the water keeps mosquitoes from hatching and is not harmful to plants. Rain from above is far better for your plants than city or county water with the unavoidable protective chemicals.
If you are still reeling from the ravages of this summer, take a deep breath because now is the time to begin planting seeds for your fall/winter veggies, spring flowers and bulbs. The SOW app recommends planting these seeds now for zone 8a: chives, garlic chives, garlic, kohlrabi, onions, parsley, and radishes. (Radishes are known as a "trap crop" because they attract certain garden insects away from your other vegetables, and also add nitrogen into the soil.) Strawberry transplants can also be planted now. Would you like to become a Master Gardener Volunteer? The Spring training class will be offered from January 8th to April $4^{\text {th }}$. Apply, get background checked, and sign up between November 1st through November 30th. It is a hybrid course requiring online and in-person participation. Cost is $\$ 150$. For information contact your County Extension Office. Dale County Ext. Office is (334) 774-2329, Houston County Ext. Office is (334) 794-4108, Coffee County Ext. Office is (334) 894-5596, or visit online at https://www.aces. edu/go/mgv
*The Claybank Master Gardeners meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, November 8 ${ }^{\text {th }}$, at 11 AM at Hoppergrass Restaurant in Ozark, 129 East Ave. If you choose to buy lunch the line is shorter at 10:30. Come join us, we love new faces and to exchange gardening ideas. You can buy lunch if you wish, or just visit to see what Master Gardeners are all about.

Dee Gilbert, Claybank Master Gardener
flextension
Laughs \& Lifts NOVEMBER 2023 Issue 183 Page 23 LaughsandLifts.com

Black Friday: Because only in America do people trample others for sales exactly one day after being thankful for what they already have.

## Wacky Wordies

Each of the puzzles below provides a visual representation of a common word or phase. Can you decipher the clues in each puzzle?

Solution on page 28


My daughter just walked into the living room and said "Dad, cancel my allowance immediately, rent my room out, throw away all my clothes, take my TV, stereo, and Iphone and my laptop. Take all my jewelry to the Mission, then sell my new car, take my front door key away from me and throw my out of the house. Disown me and never talk to me again, and don't forget to write me out of your will and leave my share to my brother."

Well, she didn't put it quiet like that...She acutually said...
"Dad, This is my new boyfriend.


I told my wife I want to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Wednesday.

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|  | 5 | 3 |  | 9 | 8 | 7 |  |  |
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|  |  | 4 | 6 | 2 |  | 9 | 5 |  |
|  | 4 | 7 |  | 5 |  |  |  |  |
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| 9 |  | 6 | 8 |  |  | 4 | 7 |  |


| 7 |  | 8 | 6 |  | 1 |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  | 7 |  | 5 | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  | 8 | 4 |  |  |  | 6 |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  | 3 |  |  |
| 2 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  | 5 | 1 |
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| 6 |  |  |  | 9 | 8 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 7 | 4 |  | 2 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 1 |  | 6 | 8 |  | 2 |

My new car has a button for pretty much everything. There's even one that says 'rear wiper.. still too afraid to try that one....

KLEPTOMANIAC: A person who helps himself because he can't help himself.


SGriously

## S®yinmini



## its the same green <br> A DANGEROUS PLACE

Restaurant bathrooms are really, really dangerous...
Many of my first dates have gone to use them and vanished.

In one small rural town the sheriff also fulfills the role of the town's veterinarian. One night his phone rang and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?"
He is, but tell me, do you need him as the sheriff or the vet.?" the wife asked.
"Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it!"

## Yeah Man.

We wope

## crazy cbothes

In the 70's
but oup butt
wasn't

## A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him ~ David Brinkley

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If someone gave you $\$ 200$ and said it is because you're ugly, would you take it?

Absolutely! In a heartbeat! I may be ugly but I'm not stupid.

Narcissists do not have the ability to self reflect. They cannot see anything wrong with what they do and they only see fault in your reaction. They believe every argument is caused by you because, to them, there was no problem with their actions until you reacted to them. They $100 \%$ believe you are the problem. It sounds like some of the rich men north of Richmond.

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Hospitality: Making your quest feel like they're home, even if you wish they were.


A-1. Placed under arrest
A-2. Franks and Beans
A-3. Routine Checkup
A-4. Piece of Pumpkin Pie
B-1. Shouting at the top of my lungs
B-2. Man about town
$B-3$. Toe the line
B-4. Throw in the towel
C-1. Keep your eyes on the ball
$\mathrm{C}-2$. Off to a flying start
C-3. Uphill Battle
C-4. Going back on your promise
D-1. No-man's land
D-2. Double-take
D-3. Overwhelming odds
D-4. The road less traveled
If we concentrated on the really important stuff in life, there would be a shortage of fishing poles!

What do you get if you divide the circumference of a jack-o-lantern by it's diameter?

Pumpkin Pi!

## JOB OPPORTUNITY PARK LITTER ATTENDANT No Experience Necessary, You can just pick it up as you go along.

Worst Country \& Western Song: Saddle up the stove Ma, I'm riding the range tonight!


## TAKE IT UP OR LET IT OUT!

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## I didn't know this.

The Dalai Lama is the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism. However, that is a title, not a name.
So what is the real name of the 14th and current Dalai Lama?
That would be Tenzin Gyatso.

## THE DOOR

Ever walk into a room with some purpose in mind, only to completely forget what that purpose was?
Psychologists at the University of Notre Dame have discovered that passing through a doorway triggers what is known as Event Boundary in
the mind, separating one set of thoughts and memories from the next.
Your brain files away the thoughts you had in the previous room and prepares a blank slate for the new locale.
Thank goodness for studies like this. It's not our age, it's that darn door!

Yeah J.C.,
and it's also the youngest you'll ever be!!

A Boy Named Sue The song "A Boy Named Sue" was made famous by music legend Johnny Cash. The song, which was recorded at the San Quentin State Prison concert on February, 24, 1969, was released as a single in July of that same year. The person who wrote the lyrics for that song was also a famous and known name. So who wrote this popular song? The answer would be Shel Silverstein, a poet and writer who wrote children's books such as The Giving Tree and Where the Sidewalk Ends.

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall after a mediocre summer.


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> JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS IS NOT HALF AS MUCH EXERCISE AS DIGGING FOR FACTS

> SOME PEOPLE FIND FAULT LIKE THERE IS A REWARD FOR IT

## Say What

When my 14-year-old son, Patrick, stepped up to the plate during a Colt League baseball game, the young announcer declared, "Now batting, the right fielder, number 12, Pathogen!" After some confusion in the stands, the announcer came back on over the loudspeaker. "Sorry folks, that's PAT Hogan!"

## CONSULTANTS

 COMMANDMENTSIf at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

## GOD FORMED US. SIN DEFORMED US. THE BIBLE INFORMS US

I am not saying that I am Batman. But I am saying no one has ever seen Batman and me in the same room together.

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