



My Plastic Goodie Bag: What We Store Shows What We Long For

The longer I manage our household, the simpler I become. Removing unlovely or unused items grows easier for me with time. Unworn clothes, more toys than we can store, books that won't fit on our shelves, these things I can part with.

But I can't seem to purge the treasure-stuffed pockets that save my inner longings.

Stacks of letters that inscribe encouragement, wisdom, blessings, and love for my hungry heart. Memories shared with people precious to me in scrapbooks and in frames. Cards and e-mails from my husband. A handful of watercolor ponies from my children. And a sturdy plastic bag that preserves resources and riches that touched my heart when I was a young woman seeking to discover: *Who am I? What do I stand for? Why am I here? What is my purpose? Do I have anything of value to offer my world?*

Over a decade later, I rummage through the plunder in this plastic cache—*This hoard has survived six moves and several clean-outs*—I have not the heart to throw it away. I rarely open it, but always know it's there.

My mind wanders toward answers. Whys? What does this symbolize? What does this reveal about me?

- Stuff**—Resourcefulness, one gifted with giving...more than I need means more to share.
- Trophies**—Points to deep desire to earn heavenly rewards—pay goodness forward now.
- Decorations**—"Atmosphere" to generate warmth and practice hospitality.

What do I save in this plastic bag? Do these treasures point me to God's purpose for my life?

- 20 tracts that fed my searching soul...**God Has Great Plans for My Life!**
- The Nail—I **Believe in Jesus Who Loves Me.**
- Pocket Guide: How to Spend Time with God and Pray—I **Want to Know God, Show Me How.**
- Psalm 37:4 bookmark--**Key that unlocks the desires of my heart.**
- A personal letter of encouragement—I'm a **words of affirmation gal.**
- 38 tracts for sharing—Evangelism—I **want to share Jesus with others!**
- A personal gift from four women using their God-given gifts: **I want you to know you're God-gifted too.**
- A napkin-message—**About virtuous womanhood...life-giving truth!**

In hindsight, the Holy Spirit makes it visible how Jesus knit me, wove me, and what purposes He laced within me. **My guess is that the same is true for you, too. What do you store? What for?** Light dawns and I think to myself, *Tell me what you store and I'll show you what you long for.*



What we store shows what we long for.

Mind if I pray for you? *Lord, I pray we may we collect truth from your word. Record memories of Your ever-faithfulness. Hoard the people you created to love. Help us cherish what lasts—God’s word and people. Yes, let’s long for what lasts. In Jesus’ name, Amen!*

Resources:

ⁱWhat is Life’s Most Important Decision?

ⁱⁱIf I Had Just One Year to Live...

ⁱⁱⁱDoes It Really Matter What You Believe?

^{iv}The Only Doorway

^vAnswers to Questions about Salvation

^{vi}What Is A Personal Relationship With God?

^{iiivii}Time With God: Peter V. Deison

^{viii}Safe and Secure: The Permanence of Salvation

^{ix}I Hope So, I Think So, Yes, I Know So

^xHow to Talk With God in Prayer

^{xi}How to Read the Bible

^{xii}How to Know the Will of God

^{xiii}Comfort From the Bible

^{xiv}What’s Your Game Plan?

^{xv}How to Be a Happy, Useful Christian

^{xvi}When We Don’t Measure Up: Escaping the Grip of Guilt

^{xvii}Where Do We Go From Here? Future: Life After Death

^{xviii}How Can I Share My Faith Without An Argument? Christian Living: Witnessing

^{xix}Jesus’ Parables About Money

^{xx}How Can I Know Who To Marry?

The Nail ...reminds me I was a sinner condemned to die.

The Nail also reminds me of my great worth. Esteemed worthy of the sacrifice of God’s only Son. Jesus Christ regarded me precious enough that HE endured the pain and agony of the cross and shed His blood to give me life.

The Nail reminds me to take up my cross daily and follow Him.

The Nail didn’t hold Him to the cross, it was His love for me!

“and He is the propitiation for our sons...and for the whole world.” 1 John 2:2



Three RBC Newsletters: A Rerun, Miracles, and Competition

Spending time with God in His Word.		
<p>Ask God to help you in understanding His Word today. Read the passage of Scripture.</p>		
<u>THE FACTS</u>	<u>THE MEANING</u>	<u>THE APPLICATION</u>
<p>What does it say here about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, people, me?</p>	<p>What is being taught here and what does it mean?</p>	<p>What am I going to do about what God is showing me? What does God want me to become? To do? To stop doing?</p>
Spending time with God in Prayer.		
<u>Adoration</u>	<p>Tell God that you love Him. Write a poem, draw a picture, sing a song...just praise Him for who He is!</p>	
<u>Confession</u>	<p>“Agree with” God about your sins. Ask for His forgiveness. Psalm 51:10-12</p>	
<u>Consecration</u>	<p>Say yes to God. Open your eyes! Be a part of what He’s doing around you.</p>	
<u>Thanksgiving</u>	<p>Write a list of all you’re thankful for (no matter how silly something might seem), be creative. Thank the Lord.</p>	
<u>Supplication</u>	<p>Pray for others. Ask! Give your worries to God. Make a prayer tree, keep a prayer journal.</p>	



Notes on stationary paper from a personal investigation of the Book of Revelation I studied when I was 17 or 18. These reveal my love of learning and desire to understand the deeper thoughts and higher ways of God.

A personal gift from four women using their God-given gifts:

*“Cut with love, sewn with care,
With each stitch for you a prayer.”*

Cloth-sewn book courtesy of the leadership of Walk to Emmaus, a spiritual growth opportunity afforded to me by my loving Nana.

I want you to know you're God-gifted too!



EVANGELISM:

Interactive Pocket Guide '96 – 2 copies

Who is Jesus? – 26 copies

God's Plan – 10 copies

***I want to share Jesus
with others!***



Words make me feel loved...

A personal letter from a woman I shared deep conversation, a book, and a letter with when I was 19.

Key to Unlock Heart Desires:

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he shall give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4



Last but not least, a folded decorative napkin with this message etched in my handwriting with a blue Sharpie marker:

*“A woman is often measured by the things she cannot control.
She is measured by the way her body curves or doesn’t curve,
by where she is flat or straight or round.*

She is measured by 36-24-36

and inches

and age

and numbers,

*by all the outside things that don’t ever add up
to who she is on the inside.*

*And so if a woman is to be measured,
let her be measured by the things she can control,
by who she is*

and who she is trying to become.

*Because as every woman knows,
measurements are only statistics
and statistics lie.”*

I want you to know your God-given value!

Do you?



ⁱ Dwight Edwards Grace Bible Church, 701 Anderson College Station, TX 77840 (409) 693-2911

ⁱⁱ American Tract Society Garland, TX 75046-2008 Printed in USA, 1987

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