

The problem with old people today: No mountains to conquer



America's Heartland

Roger Alford
RogerAlford1@GMail.Com

I can't help but laugh when I think of the story I heard long ago about the young preacher's visit with an elderly widow who, upset about losing her dentures, needed to be consoled. The preacher sat on the sofa

and nibbled from a dish of peanuts on the end table while he tried to cheer her with the latest news about her church friends. Before long he realized he had made a real pig of himself and apologized to the woman for having eaten every last one of her peanuts.

She responded: "It's OK honey. I had already sucked the chocolate off of them."

You know, many people approach life the way the woman in that story approaches chocolate-covered peanuts. They try to avoid the hard parts.

We can learn much from a great hero of the Old Testament named Caleb. He was a Godly man who thrived on challenge. He also was a man's man who

refused to duck, dodge, flinch or back up in the face of adversity. When the Israelites entered the Promised Land and began to divvy up the property, Caleb, a key leader, could have had any tract he wanted in a country so desirable that it was described as flowing with milk and honey.

But Caleb looked past the fertile flatlands perfect for growing crops. He ignored the expansive vineyards and olive groves. He cast his eyes upon a steep, rugged mountain occupied by huge enemy warriors.

Caleb stood before Joshua, the leader of Israel, and made his request: "Give me this mountain."

I can imagine a determined

Caleb, around 80 years old at the time, standing there with his shoulders back, chest out, chin held high, hungry for another challenge. The man still had fire in his belly. He wasn't going to kowtow to any sons, daughters or grandchildren who might have wanted to relegate him to a rocker. He still had giants to slay.

Sometimes I wonder why people are in such a hurry to hustle Grandpa or Grandma off to the retirement home. Some of our best years are our elder years, when we have a lifetime of wisdom stored in our noggins. Yet, we allow people with far less life experience to dictate where we can go, what we can do, and when we can do it.

I doubt that Caleb would have put up with that kind of thing for even a moment.

What was the secret to Caleb's can-do attitude? The Bible tells us he wholly trusted God, and that allowed him to press ahead with an assurance that's unknown to most people in the world.

Sure, we can live life like the lady with her chocolate-covered peanuts and just enjoy the sweet parts, when we're young and strong and in our prime. Or, we can be like Caleb, and square our shoulders back and find another mountain to conquer.

You can reach Roger Alford at 502-514-6857 or rogeralford1@gmail.com.

Divas on a Dime by Patti Diamond Totally Cool Orange and Vanilla Combo

This month we celebrate one of the most famous frozen treats ever stuck on a stick. Saturday, Aug. 14, is National Creamsicle Day! Just thinking about it makes me feel nostalgic. If childhood summers had a flavor, it'd be sweet, tart, frozen orange sherbet wrapped around a creamy iced vanilla lolly.

Obviously, this requires a celebration. I suppose we could just go to the frozen-treat section of the grocery store and pick up a box of ice pops, but where's the fabulous fun in that?

Let's pay homage to this orangy, creamy, head-freezy treat with the most scrumptious icebox cake ever. And because we're adults now, we're going to make it boozy. It's everything you loved as a kid without the stick, with a kick.

Perhaps this is what Aristotle was eating when he said, "The whole being greater than the sum of its parts," because this icebox-cake technique exemplifies it. It's nothing but ice cream and graham crackers, yet it's so much more. This recipe is easy. It barely



Orange and vanilla icebox cake

Photo Credit: www.Jason-Coblentz.com

Here's How:

1. Remove the ice cream and sherbet from the freezer to begin softening.
2. Line a loaf pan with plastic wrap leaving an overhang of about 4 inches on the sides. Line the bottom of your pan with graham crackers, breaking as needed to fill the bottom. Remember, when you flip your frozen masterpiece over onto a serving dish, this bottom will be the top, so make it pretty.
3. Soften about 1 cup vanilla ice cream in your stand mixer using a paddle attachment, or a mixing bowl with a rubber spatula using elbow grease. Add 1 tablespoon triple sec, if desired. Using a spatula, spread this evenly over the graham crackers. Place another layer of graham crackers over the ice cream.
4. Soften 1 cup of sherbet as you did the ice cream, adding 1 tablespoon liqueur if desired, and spread evenly to make another layer. Top this with more graham crackers.
5. Swirl the remaining ice cream and sherbet together, adding liquor if you wish and spread forming the last layer.

Top this with graham crackers, gently pressing down to squish it all together.

6. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze for at least 4 hours, or better, overnight.

To Serve:

1. Dip the bottom of the pan

briefly in warm water to release the cake from the sides. Place your serving platter upside-down onto your frozen pan and invert by performing an exhilarating flip. Take a bow, or try again, whichever is appropriate.

2. Remove the plastic wrap from your incredible cake. Take a moment to revel in your amazingness, then slice to serve or decorate as desired.

While this icebox cake is deliciously charming, it's not stunningly beautiful, so I decorated mine with whipped cream, thin orange slices and edible viola flowers.

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website "Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous!" Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

I Know That I Know

Wednesday, August 4th, 2021 Message
Bro. Warren Rogers, Retired Baptist Minister

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." -- 2 Timothy 1:12

Have you ever come to the place in your life that you were worried about your salvation? This is one of the most miserable times in your life.

If the devil can't keep you from being saved, he will make you doubt your salvation. He doesn't want you to enjoy it, and he will try to destroy your testimony.

Let's dissect 2 Timothy 1:12

#1 The source of our salvation -- In Acts 16:30-31, the Philippian jailer asked a question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" It's simple, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Jesus is our source.

Read: Romans 10:10 and John 6:47

Salvation is not about believing about Jesus but believing on Jesus. We acknowledge our inability and accept his ability.

#2 The surety of our salvation -- In 2 Tim 1:12, the words are 'I KNOW,' not 'I think,' or 'I hope.' A Christian should never doubt their salvation. Notice Paul said without any doubt that, "I know."

Maybe you've lost the joy of your salvation experience, and the devil is telling you, 'you're not saved.' One of the problems we face is that a lot of people depend on feelings for their salvation. Life is full of ups and downs. One day we are on the mountain top, next day we are in the valley. It's when you are in the valley that Satan whispers in your ear, 'You are not saved. God doesn't know you.'

Another reason we doubt is that we can't remember -- what we said when we prayed; when, where, who was preaching, etc. After 49 years since I received Christ as my Savior, I can't remember what I said, but I know Jesus came into my heart. We don't all have the same experience, and we wonder if we actually got saved if someone gets up after accepting Christ and they shout but you didn't. Maybe you got saved in church and someone else got saved in the corn field. All that matters is that you can say, 'I know.'

Paul said, "I know whom." He didn't say he knew because of his experience on the Damascus Road but just a simple, "I Know." All God asks us is to believe on Jesus.

#3 The security of our salvation: In 2 Timothy 1:12, Paul said he was persuaded/convinced that God would keep that which he had committed. Are you convinced that you serve a master that is able to keep you? Read 1 Timothy 1:12 again, slowly this time, digest each word.

Perhaps if you read **John 10:28-30**, it will help. "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰I and my Father are one."

In **2 Timothy 1:12**, Paul said, "Against that day." Paul was speaking of the day that Christ returns for His church.

Brother/Sister, I know, that I know, that I know I am saved. How about you? Are you secure in your belief? If not please read this again. If you need to talk to me, call or text 606-481-0444. Until next week, may God bless you!

Your friend in Christ,
Bro. Warren Rogers, Baptist preacher

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by BUD BLAKE

