

*Making Money Work*

# *Heavenly Humor*

*To Err Is Human, To Laugh Is Divine*

A book by  
**Bill G. Page**





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Written by Bill G. Page

Willie Glenn Page, Inc.



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## *Preface*

If you were looking for a theological literary work poignant in accuracy and deep in spiritual insights, then you have purchased the wrong book. *Heavenly Humor* makes no pretense about an intrinsic worth to humanity or any great contribution to our literary world. It has one main purpose, to make you laugh. While eternity is too long to experience without God, life on this Earth is too short to go through without laughter.

If you were looking for a serious book that has profound implications for helping our world become a better place, then you should have purchased my previous book titled *Making Money Work: A Christian Guide For Personal Finance*. I realize the “Making Money Work fish logo” has little to do with humor; however, it took three and a half years to obtain the trademark registration number from our beloved United States Patents and Trademark Office and I’m using it again with this book to make certain I get my money’s worth from that fun filled process.

*Heavenly Humor* makes no pretense concerning an attempt to provide accurate theological information. Accuracy is waived in most instances for the sake of humor. If you want accurate theological



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information, read the Bible. If you want a book with perfectly spelled words, then you should have gotten a dictionary. If you wanted a book without any “Southernisms” in it, well, you should not have gotten this one. I speak two languages—I am “fluent in Southern” and I speak “a little bit of English.” It takes me three syllables to pronounce “dawg.”

If you find none of these conditions objectionable, then let your hair down—unless you are bald like me and unable to do so. I’m old, fat, and bald. I believe God threw in “bald” just to keep me humble. For example, originally, the title of this book was to be “Humility, And How I Achieved It!” Christian author C.S. Lewis had an interesting thought, Do “...you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily [?]. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.”<sup>1</sup>

So, relax, while enjoying the antics of the Reverend Billy Bob Bubba Brown, Wendy Wake, Faithfulllly Tarrdy, Norma Noxious, Nathan Nasty, Little Johnnie the Baptist, Ebenezer Mordecai, Ima

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<sup>1</sup> C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York, NY: Macmillan Publishing Company, Touchstone, 1952), page 114.



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Ina Pickle, Agatha Angst, Beulah Mae Beauregard Lee, Lulu “Tinker” Belle, and many others. Have some fun by allowing yourself to smile and laugh a little.



## *Acknowledgements*

Thank God for giving us the ability to laugh. While written in my own words, many people have contributed to the ideas behind the jokes and stories written in this book. I'd like to thank the great ministers I've had at Norcross First United Methodist Church in Norcross, Ga. and Orange United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill, NC for many of those ideas. Also, special thanks to family, friends, and former co-workers who have provided inspiration for many of the jokes. I hope you enjoy the classic joke re-writes as well as the newer ones. May God bless each and every one of you with an eternity filled with laughter.

Special thanks to Jean Page Roberts who is a retired reading specialist teacher extraordinaire for her copyedit work on this book. Also, thanks to my son Justin Vaden Page for his work reviewing and making suggestions on how to improve this book.

Unless otherwise noted, this book uses scripture verses from "*The New English Bible With the Apocrypha*" (Oxford University Press, London, 1970).



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“Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born. Sarah [Abraham’s wife who was about ninety one years old] said, ‘God has given me good reason to laugh, and everybody who hears will laugh with me’ ”—Genesis 21:5-6 (The New English Bible). If you are over ninety years old and you are having a baby, believe me—you better be able to laugh.

The name Isaac means “He laughed.” God created a great nation through Isaac and an everlasting covenant from generation to generation.

“The Lord said to Abraham, ‘... Is anything impossible for the Lord?’”—Genesis 18:13-14.





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## *Chapter 1: Heavenly Humor*

Forrest Gump died and went to Heaven. St. Peter greeted him at the Pearly Gates and said, “Forrest, Heaven is very popular and getting very full. We are now giving an entrance exam of three questions prior to people entering.” Forrest said, “I’ll do my best.” St. Peter asked, “Can you name two days of the week that begin with the letter ‘T’?” Forrest Gump thought and replied, “Shucks, that one’s pretty easy, today and tomorrow.” St. Peter said, “That’s not exactly what I had in mind but I suppose your answer is correct.” St. Peter then asked, “How many seconds are there in a year?” After a long silent pause, Forrest Gump replied, “I had to think and think about that one, but it must be 12—Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup> ...” St. Peter interrupted and said, “I get the idea Forrest, while that’s not exactly what I had in mind, technically speaking it is correct.” Then St. Peter asked, “What is God’s first name?” Forrest Gump replied, “That’s the easiest one of all—it must be Andy.” St. Peter asked, “Why on earth do you think it is Andy?” Forrest Gump replied, “Momma used to take me to church and we always sang Andy ‘walks



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with me,' Andy 'talks with me,' Andy 'tells me I am His own'!"<sup>2</sup> St. Peter smiled at Forrest, opened up the Pearly Gates and said, "Run Forrest run."<sup>3</sup>

Now aren't you glad there is no arbitrary entrance exam to qualify for Heaven. It does not depend upon our good works. Salvation depends upon what Christ did for us. Salvation depends upon God's Mercy and Grace. Mercy is receiving what we do not deserve. Grace is what we cannot do for ourselves. G.R.A.C.E. is God's Redemption At Christ's Expense. Receiving God's Grace is as easy as "A, B, C"—Admit that you are a sinner, Believe that Jesus died for your sins, and Confess Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. To paraphrase a thought from Forrest Gump—[that's a] *good thing, one less thing to worry about.*<sup>4</sup> To put it another way, one should be aware of a couple of things:

1. sin is a bad thing,
2. obedience to God is a good thing,
3. if you adhere to "1" and "2" above, you'll have a few less "things" to worry about.

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<sup>2</sup> C. Austin Miles, Hymn "In the Garden," 1868-1946—adaptation.

<sup>3</sup> [www.reelmovienews.com/quotes/movies/forrest-gump](http://www.reelmovienews.com/quotes/movies/forrest-gump).

<sup>4</sup> *Forrest Gump*, Academy Award Winning film, Director Robert Zemeckis, July 6, 1994.



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Forrest Gump's mother taught him "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are gonna get." Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil—there is no point. "And that's all I have to say about that."

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A woman died and arrived at the Pearly Gates of Heaven. As she waited for Saint Peter to greet her, she peered through the fence and saw a gorgeous banquet table. Sitting all around the table were family members and friends that had predeceased her. She was very excited because they were all people she dearly loved.

Saint Peter at last greeted her. She asked, "This is such a wonderful place. How do I get in?" Saint Peter said, "You just have to spell one word." The woman asked, "Which word?" Saint Peter replied, "Love." The woman excitedly answered, "L-O-V-E." Saint Peter welcomed her and opened the Pearly Gates.

A few years later, Saint Peter came to the woman and asked, "I'm going on break. Could you please watch the Pearly Gates until my return?" The



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woman replied, "Of course." While she was guarding the gates, her husband arrived. The woman was surprised to see him and inquired, "How have you been?" The husband replied, "Well, I've been doing a lot better since you died. First, I won the Mega Millions Lottery. Then, I got remarried to the beautiful young nurse that took care of you while you were sick. We moved into a huge mansion. Then we traveled all over North and South America. In fact, we were on vacation in Cancun, Mexico just this morning. I was on a jet ski when I hit a bridge piling, broke my neck, and rattled my brain. That's why I'm here now. How do I get inside the Pearly Gates?" The first wife answered, "You simply have to spell one word." The husband asked, "What's the word?" The first wife replied, "Czechoslovakia."

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There was an inscription on a gravestone in an old British cemetery near Windsor Castle just outside of London, England. The inscription read:

"Pause, my friend, as you walk by;  
As you are now, so once was I.



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As I am now, so you will be.  
Prepare, my friend, to follow me!”

A visitor to the cemetery added these lines to the epitaph:

“To follow you is not my intent,  
Until I know which way you went!”<sup>5</sup>

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An elderly lady’s rambunctious husband died. She placed the following inscription on his gravestone:

“Dear Lord,  
Please receive him in Heaven  
with as much joy  
as he is sent to you with.”

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<sup>5</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: New Testament, Volume 2* (Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries, 2001), page 182.



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A florist received two orders at the same time for cards and flower arrangements. One order was for a business that was relocating. The other order was for a funeral.

Unfortunately, the deliveries got mixed up. The business owner opened a card that read “Rest in Peace.” The relatives at the funeral opened a card that read, “Good luck in your new location!”

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An employer called an employee into his office upon arrival at work one morning. The employer asked, “Do you believe in life after death?” The employee replied, “Yes.” The employer replied, “Well, I guess that makes everything alright then. After you left work early yesterday to attend your grandmother’s funeral, she stopped in to say hello to you!”

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Bob had a brother-in-law who was also a great fishing buddy. The brother-in-law died. Concerned about his spiritual well-being, Bob prayed to God for some sort of sign that his fishing buddy was alright and in Heaven.

The brother-in-law's wife reported some strange occurrences. Before his death, the brother-in-law would turn up the volume on the TV to accommodate for his hearing loss. Often, in the middle of the night, he would go to the living room and watch TV due to insomnia. After his death, his wife reported being awakened in the middle of the night to discover the living room lights on, the TV on, and the volume level turned way up.

A few nights later in his own home, Bob was awakened by a strange feeling, went downstairs, and was startled seeing a light shining through the cracks of the garage door. Upon investigation, Bob found a floating, fishing lantern that was turned on. The strange thing was the lantern had been broken at least six months earlier. Bob had not been able to get it to work since his last fishing trip with his brother-in-law.

A year later, a mechanic friend of Bob's was on hospice care and about to die. The mechanic expressed some concerns about God's forgiveness for his sins and his eternal future. Bob relayed the



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brother-in-law, fishing buddy story to the mechanic to help ease some of his fears.

Bob then requested that some sort of sign be sent to him after the mechanic's death to assure Bob of Heaven's promise. Three days after the mechanic died, Bob's check engine light came on!

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**“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.”<sup>6</sup>**

I was bewildered,  
as I entered Heaven's door;  
not by its majestic beauty,  
or the grandeur of its decor.

But by the people in Heaven,  
who made me cringe and gasp;

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<sup>6</sup> Matthew 7:1 (New International Version--NIV). This re-write and adaptation by Bill G. Page is based upon a poem by Rod Hemphil, *First Few Minutes of Heaven*, [www.ceylontoday.lk](http://www.ceylontoday.lk).



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the liars, cheats, and sinners,  
thieves, addicts, and other trash.

There stood the bully from middle school,  
who often stole my lunch money;  
next to him sat a grumpy neighbor,  
who liked to call me “dummy.”

My obnoxious boss, whom I imagined,  
was forever rotting away in Hell;  
was sitting comfortably on cloud nine,  
and looking remarkably well.

I asked Jesus, “What's the deal?  
I would like to hear your take;  
how did all these sinners get here?  
Surely God has made a mistake.”

“And why’s everyone so quiet,  
please Jesus, give me a clue.”  
“Be still my child,” Jesus said, “They’re all in  
shock;  
they never thought they'd be seeing you!”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Jesus never said anything like this—it is just a joke! As Christ followers, it behooves each of us to remember that we serve an inclusive God, not an exclusive God. All that call



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A drunk, who reeked of alcohol sat down on a subway seat next to a priest. The drunk's suit was soiled and stained. A half empty bottle of liquor was sticking out of a torn coat pocket. His face and shirt collar was plastered with red lipstick. He opened a newspaper and silently began to read.

A few minutes later, the drunk turned to the priest and inquired, "Tell me father, what causes arthritis?"

Quite agitated, the priest responded, "My son, it is caused by drinking too much alcohol, a lack of personal hygiene, sleeping around with loose women, and a general contempt for your fellow man."

The drunk responded, "Well, I'll be darned." He then went back to reading his paper.

The priest soon felt badly about his harsh response. The father leaned over, put his hand on

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upon the name of the Lord will be saved—paraphrase from Romans 10:13.



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the drunk's shoulder, and said, "I'm sorry my son, I should not have been so abrupt in my response to your question. I apologize if I hurt your feelings. How long have you had arthritis?"

The drunk replied, "I don't have arthritis. I was just reading this newspaper article that says the Pope has it."

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### Judge Gently<sup>8</sup>

Judge gently the man that sins,  
and stumbles along the road;  
unless you've worn his shoes,  
and struggled beneath his load.

You might be strong,

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<sup>8</sup> This poem version called "Judge Gently" is adapted and re-written by Bill G. Page. The original version of the poem was called "Judge Softly." The poem was later called "Walk a Mile in His Moccasins." "Judge Softly" was written by Mary Torrans Lathrap in 1895, [www.AAANativeArts.com/native-american-poetry/walk-a-mile-in-his-moccasins](http://www.AAANativeArts.com/native-american-poetry/walk-a-mile-in-his-moccasins).



but Heaven knows;  
if you'd stumble too,  
beneath the sinner's woes.

Do not be harsh with those that sin,  
by pelting them with neither word nor stone;  
unless you know without a doubt,  
that you have no sins of your own.

For all have sinned and fallen short,  
and require a Savior who judges gently;  
the one sent from God, His only Son,  
that loves all sinners intensely.

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### **In The Beginning<sup>9</sup>**

“In the beginning”<sup>10</sup>, God created the Heavens and the Earth. Then God created all kinds of healthy

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<sup>9</sup> This version of “In the Beginning” is adapted and re-written by Bill G. Page—original author unknown.

<sup>10</sup> Genesis 1:1, *The New English Bible With The Apocrypha* (Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, 1970).



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things such as broccoli, cauliflower, spinach and a plethora of nutritious vegetables so that man could live a long and healthy life. God said to man, “Try my fresh green salad, it is good.”

Then Satan created Thousand Island dressing for the greens along with buttery croutons and garlic toast. Man gained ten pounds.

God said, “I provided healthy vegetables for you. Now, here is olive oil in which to cook them.” But, Satan brought forth Southern fried chicken and deep fried fish with platters on which to serve them. Man gained even more weight.

Then Satan created high fat donuts and ice cream. Satan said to man, “Do you want chocolate with that?” And man replied, “Yes, could you add sprinkles too.” And then man’s cholesterol levels soared.

God created a light fluffy white cake, which He named “Angel Food Cake.” But then, Satan created a chocolate cake, which he named “Devil’s Food.”

God brought forth running shoes to entice man to lose those extra pounds. Then, Satan brought forth cable television with a remote control.

God brought forth lean beef so that man might consume fewer calories. Then Satan created the triple decker cheeseburger. Satan said to man, “Would you like fries with that?” Man replied



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“Yes, and could you ‘supersize’ it?” Satan smiled and said, “It is good.”

Then man went into cardiac arrest.

God created quadruple bypass surgery.

But then Satan created HMO’s.

Then God sighed and opened the Pearly Gates in preparation for man’s arrival.

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### **Mommy’s Little Angel**

A mother brought home her newest baby boy who was screaming at the top of his lungs. Little Johnny, the baby’s older brother, asked his mom, “Where did he come from?” The beleaguered mom replied, “He came from Heaven.” Little Johnny remarked, “I can see why they threw him out!”

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These questions were posed in church, “What do you think Heaven is like? How would you compare it to life on Earth?”

The theologian replied, “Heaven is eternal worship in the light, love, and presence of God. It is infinite in time, space, and in value.”

The layperson replied, “Heaven has Pearly Gates, walls of jasper, streets of gold, and is adorned with jewels of every kind.”

My three-year-old daughter simply said, “Its way-y-y more far better good!”

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**End of Free Sample**

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