

A Charm on a Ribbon

During the pioneer era in America, a poverty-stricken old man found his way into a settlement on the western frontier. He had run out of supplies, so he was looking for food.

As he walked through the camp, someone stopped to talk with him and noticed that he wore a small pouch on a ribbon around his neck. The old man explained that it was a charm given to him many years before. He opened it, removed a crumpled paper, and handed it to his inquirer.

Upon examining it, the villager discovered that it was a regular discharge from the federal army. It was signed by General George Washington himself, and it entitled the man to a pension for life.

How surprised the old soldier was to find out that all these years he had been carrying a bona fide promise that his needs would be met. Because he had not claimed it, though, he had been a wandering, hungry, penniless man.

We, too, sometimes wander around in the wilderness of spiritual poverty while God's ample provision goes unused. God has opened to us "His riches in glory" through the work and merits of Jesus Christ.

Look around and thank Him today for your blessings – for friends, for the opportunity to be involved in a great mission of caring for God's children, for loving families, and for life itself.

--Beecher Hunter