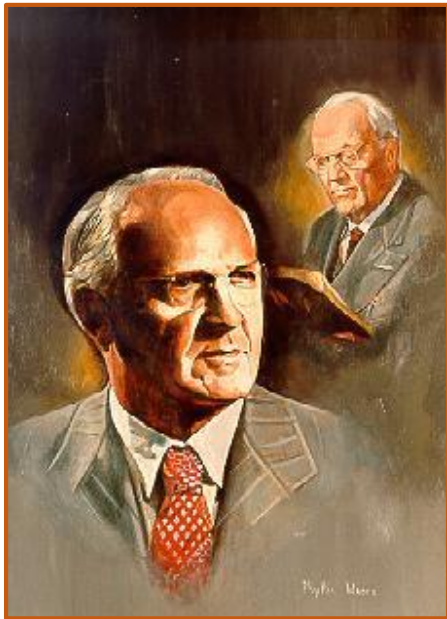


# The Power of One

Dr. Robert G. Lee (1886 -1978) was pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis – one of the most influential congregations in the Southern Baptist Convention – from 1927 to 1960.



Born the son of a South Carolina sharecropper, he worked his way through school, ultimately graduating with a doctorate in international law from Chicago Law School in 1919. Early in his life, he felt the call to be a preacher. He authored 56 books, and his most famous sermon, *Pay-Day Someday*, was preached more than 1,200 times at Bible conferences, in state capitol buildings, churches, universities, youth camps and ballparks across the nation and around the world.

In an excerpt from one of his sermons, he proclaimed:

*One mischievous boy can break up a school. One false alarm can cause a panic. One match can start a conflagration. One false step can cost a life or ruin a character. One broken wheel can ditch a train. One quarrelsome worker can create a strike of 10,000 men.*

*One undiplomatic word can provoke a war involving thousands of lives and destruction of millions of dollars in property. One hasty act of legislation can entail untold hardships. One wayward daughter can break a mother's heart. One lie can destroy a person's character. One false witness can send an innocent man to jail. One vote can decide an election.*

*One kind word at the right time may save a person from suicide. One sermon may fire a man's soul and set the course for his future life. One drink may start a person on the road to alcoholism. One wrong example may lead dozens down the wrong path. One decision for Christ will determine future destiny.*

Those words from Dr. Lee, surviving long past his death, demonstrate the power of one. They should prompt sober reflection on the words we choose and how we conduct ourselves.

And they should motivate each of us in Life Care and Century Park to understand the daily opportunity before us to impact for good one act of service at a time, one patient at a time, one family member at a time.

– Beecher Hunter