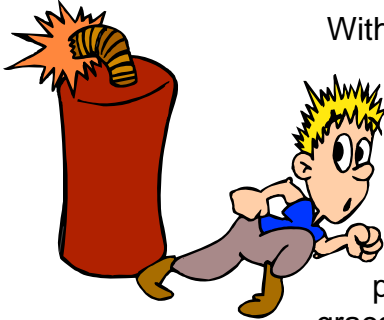


THE STUMP AND THE TRUCK

George's first job as a landscape contractor was to remove a large oak stump from a farmer's field. It was also his first opportunity to use dynamite – a common practice for the removal of such stumps.



With the farmer watching, George tried to hide his nervousness by carefully calculating the size of the stump and determining the proper amount of dynamite to use and where to place it.

Finally, he and the farmer moved to the detonator, located behind George's pickup truck. With a silent prayer, George plunged the detonator. The stump gracefully rose into the air and then came crashing down – right on the cab of his truck!

George gazed in despair at the damage that had been caused, but the farmer was all admiration, and with an impish grin said: "Son, with a little more practice, those stumps will land in the bed of the truck every time!"

When we face adversity – and we all do, in varying degrees – we often see our problem as something that has come crashing down upon us. We may look at the crushed "cab" of our lives and be tempted to give in to despair, discouragement or depression.

Another viewpoint might be to see how close you have come to success, and choose instead to respond to your circumstances with optimism. The career of Abraham Lincoln is a great example. Before he was elected President, he was defeated in bids for the state legislature twice, experienced bankruptcy and a nervous breakdown, and lost campaigns for Congress three times and for the Senate three times. And yet, Lincoln went on to become the man whom many regard as the greatest President of the United States ever.

Just remember: God is in the process of refining you – step by step – and He has a goal in mind, your perfection in Jesus Christ.

Though your beginning was insignificant, yet your end will increase greatly (Job 8:7).

– Beecher Hunter