

## The Same Ole' Net In the Same Ole' Pond



“Did you ever notice,” asked an old lady, as she smiled into the troubled face before her, “that when the Lord told the discouraged fishermen to cast their nets again, it was right in that same old place where they had been working all night and had caught nothing? If we could only go off to some new place every time we

get discouraged, trying again would be an easier thing. If we could be somebody else, or go somewhere else, or do something else, it might not be hard to have fresh faith and courage. But it is the same old net in the same old pond for most of us. The old temptations are to be overcome, the old faults to be conquered, and the

old trials and discouragements which we failed yesterday must be faced again today. *We must win success where we are if we are to win it at all.* It is the Master Himself who, after all these toilsome, disheartening efforts that we call failures, bids us, “Try again.”

## Hope I didn't Complain!

Robert Hall, the great Baptist preacher, used to be subject to occasions of great physical pain, in the course of which he would roll on the ground in sheer agony. When the pain was over, the first words he used to say were, “I hope I didn't complain.” How much more effective our witness for Christ would be if we didn't complain so much about our trials of faith.

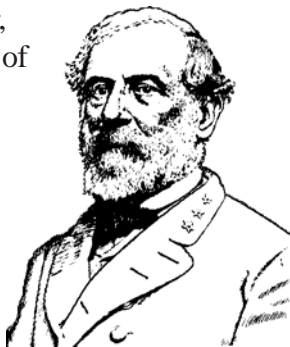
## What would You say?



A minister was making some repairs on his home when he noticed the neighbor's little boy was paying very close attention to the job. The pastor asked, “Are you getting some pointers on carpentry, Harold?” The little observer replied, “No sir. I'm just waiting to see what a preacher says when he smashes his thumb with a hammer.”

## Not For Sale!

At the close of the Civil War, stockholders of the infamous Louisiana Lottery, approached General Robert E. Lee and tendered him the presidency of the company. Lee was without position, property, or income, but regarded this offer as the gain of oppression, and on the ground that he did not understand the business and did not care to learn it, he modestly declined the proposition. They then said, “No experience is



needed. We know how to run the business. We want you as president for the influence of your name. Remember the salary is twenty-five thousand dollars a year.” Lee arose and buttoned his old gray coat over his manly breast and replied, “Gentlemen, my home at Arlington Heights is gone, I am a poor man, and my people are in need. My name and influence are all I have left, and they are not for sale at any price.” Rather than receive the gain of oppression, he taught the young men of the South the principles of right living at a salary of one thousand dollars a year.

**Anger** "It's wise to remember that anger is just one letter short of danger."

--Sam Ewing

