



That's all she wrote...

Pastor Lore Blinn Gibson



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Hardy Har Har

It's funny (ha ha) what makes people laugh.

One day, the pastor of the church knelt at the altar and pounded her heart, saying, "I'm nobody! I'm nobody!" A little while later, the Director of Music joined her, pounding his heart and saying, "I'm nobody! I'm nobody!" They continued in prayer when the custodian came, threw himself down at the kneeling rail, and wailed loudly, "I'm nobody! I'm nobody!" The pastor leaned over and whispered to the Director of Music, "Look who thinks he's nobody."

Ha.

It's funny because it tells a truth in a way that cuts a little close to home. That's the kind of humor that makes me laugh.

I heard this joke last night at Summer Club.

"Why did the chicken cross the road?"

"To get to YOUR house."

"Knock knock."

"Who's there?"

"THE CHICKEN!"

Several of our youth dissolved in gales of laughter. I still don't know what is funny about that, but they were absolutely delighted. Their laughter brought joy into the room.

God laughs at evil (Psalm 2:4; 37:13). It is a scoffing, put-down of a laugh, but he laughs all the same. Handling situations with humor must be a divine suggestion! There are all kinds of funny stories and hilarious moments in the Bible. God can laugh at evil because he knows its days are numbered. Evil takes itself way too seriously.

Laughter has great power. I might respond to a situation with anger or frustration or a sharp comment. Arguing and getting revenge are also options. Trying to win, to gain the upper hand, to control the situation, I have been known to descend into

a very unfunny place. God is teaching me to laugh more. He is, after all, in control, so laughter is an option.

The old adage, 'Angels fly, because they take themselves lightly,' tells us a truth. There is a huge power in trusting God's control and laughing in the face of things that might trouble us. Laughter isn't always the right response, sometimes it is inappropriate. But it is always an option to be considered when we find ourselves feeling insecure or desperate to win control.

I still take myself way too seriously, but God is working on me. As I allow myself to remember that God laughs even at things that from our perspective do not look funny, I am also discovering a wealth of humor in the Word passed down to us. I'm laughing a little more. How about you?

This week, I dare you to choose the option of laughter, and see what it does to your world and your heart. If you need encouragement, come hear Kate Lehman Walker preaching about Sarah having a baby in her old age (Genesis 18 and 21). I don't care who you are, that story is funny! I hope you laugh.

Ten Tips for Increasing Laughter

1. Find a friend or personable stranger.
2. The more the merrier.
3. Increase interpersonal contact.
4. Create a casual atmosphere.
5. Adopt a laugh-ready attitude
6. Exploit the contagious laugh effect.
7. Provide humorous materials.
8. Remove social inhibitions.
9. Stage social events.
10. Tickle (but make sure it's someone you know really well)

from *Laughter: A Scientific Investigation* by Robert R. Provine

OUT - Mark your calendars for August 22. One Sunday service that day, and many opportunities to bring some beauty, blessing and laughter to our community and our church.



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Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:40 p.m. Sunday 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

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