

蚂蚁和隐形眼镜的故事

布伦达（Brenda）攀爬到花岗岩峭壁的半途时，站立在一个凸出的地方喘口气。这是她第一次参加攀岩运动。就在休息的时候，一根安全绳啪地一声打到她眼睛上并打掉了她的隐形眼镜。“天哪！”她想，“我在岩壁上，向下有几百尺，向上也有几百尺，视线又模糊不清。”

她四处寻找，希望镜片落在凸起处，但怎么也找不到。她心烦意乱，便开始祈求神给她平静，并帮助她找到镜片。

到达山顶后，一个朋友检查了她的眼睛和衣服，都没有找到镜片。虽然她到了山顶，心也平静了下来，却因看不清远方的群山景致而觉得遗憾。她祈求：“主啊，祢能看到这些山脉，祢知晓每一块石头、每一片叶子，而祢确切地知道我的隐形眼镜在哪里。请帮助我。”

过后，他们沿着小径走到峭壁之下，遇见一队刚开始攀登的登山者。他们其中一人喊道：“嘿，你们谁丢了隐形眼镜？”这足以让人大吃一惊，但是你知道那个登山者是怎么看到镜片的吗？原来一只蚂蚁背着镜片慢慢地爬行在岩石间的一支树枝上！

故事并没有因此而结束。布伦达的父亲是个漫画家，听了女儿那不可思议的关于蚂蚁、祈祷和隐形眼镜的故事后，他画了一幅蚂蚁背着隐形眼镜的画，标题写道：“主啊，我不知道祢为什么让我背着这东西。我不能吃它，它又非常重。但如果祢要我背着，我会为祢这么做。”

启示：

如果我们偶尔说：“神啊，我不明白为什么祢要我背负这个担子。我看不到任何好处，而且它实在很沉重。但是，如果祢要我承担，我会做到。”我想这对我们每个人都有些好处。

‘神不召唤有资格的人，神会使祂所召唤的人具备资格。’神是我们生命的源头和救护者，祂使我们每天持续地行使职责。记着：“我靠着那加给我力量的神，凡事都能作。”这句话带给我们无比的信心，尤其是在最艰苦的时刻。

问题：

1. 你对布伦达与神的关系有什么看法？【顺序讲述】
2. 神上一次什么时候，在你的生活中行使像‘蚂蚁和隐形眼镜’一样的微妙而不寻常的事？你的信念因此而加深了吗？【公开讨论】
3. 如今，你的信念程度有多深？你需要更多微妙的奇迹来加深与神的关系吗？【公开讨论】
4. 你准备好说“神啊，我不明白为什么祢要我背负这个担子。我看不到任何好处，而且它实在很沉重。但是，如果祢要我承担，我会做到。”这句话吗？【顺序讲述】
5. ‘神不召唤有资格的人，神会使祂所召唤的人具备资格’，这句话是什么意思？【公开讨论】

October 2017: SCA Study Circle

The Story of The Contact Lens And The Ant

Brenda was almost halfway to the top of the steep granite cliff; she was standing on a ledge, taking a breather during this, her first rock climb. As she rested there, the safety rope snapped against her eye and knocked out her contact lens. 'Great!', she thought. 'Here I am on a rock ledge, hundreds of feet from the bottom and hundreds of feet to the top of this cliff, and now my sight is blurry.'

She looked and looked, hoping that somehow it had landed on the ledge. But it just wasn't there. She felt the panic rising in her, so she began praying. She prayed for calm, and she prayed that she may find her contact lens.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but it was not to be found. Although she was calm now that she was at the top, she was saddened because she could not clearly see across the range of mountains. She prayed to GOD, 'Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me.'

Later, when they had hiked down the trail to the bottom of the cliff they met another party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, 'Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?' Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across a twig on the face of the rock, carrying it!

The story doesn't end there. Brenda's father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a cartoon of an ant lugging that contact lens with the caption, 'Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You.'

Learning:

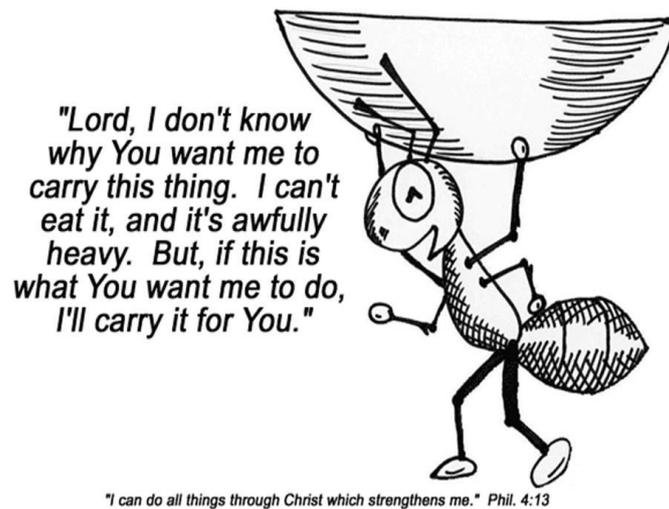
It would do all of us some good to say, 'God, I don't know why You want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if You want me to carry it, I will.'

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. GOD is the source of our existence and our Saviour. He keeps us functioning each and every day. Remembering always; "I can do all things through God which strengthens me" gives tremendous confidence to us especially in turbulent times.

Questions:

1. What do you think about Brenda's relationship to God? **【Sequential narration】**
2. When was the last time God did a subtle and amazing thing in your life like the ant and the contact lens? Has your faith deepened? **【Open discussion】**
3. Where are you in your faith journey? Do you need more subtle miracles to deepen your relationship with God? **【Open discussion】**
4. Are you ready to say, 'God, I don't know why You want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if You want me to carry it, I will.' ? **【Sequential narration】**
5. What do you understand by 'God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.'? **【Open discussion】**

Note for facilitator 主持人笔记:



You can choose to play the following clip to reinforce the reading of this story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CouVhzxvNvY>

This story is about the concept that the Lord may sometimes call upon us to bear burdens for reasons we do not understand (but which ultimately prove beneficial to ourselves or to others). 我们也常像这只蚂蚁，并不明白为什么某些事会发生在我们身上？往往等事情过后，才发现上天的美意。

His ways are astounding, yes, but also subtle (微妙) so that He does not destroy our free will (自由意志). Free will is a gift from God as well, and so He rarely uses overwhelming (巨大, 无可抗拒的) miracles to bring us to faith. Those overwhelming miracles are used for believers who desire to do great things for God, and will need strength when obedience is hard. God is much more subtle to bring us to faith or deepen our faith, using simple things like ants and contact lenses.

It is sometimes very tough to practice what we believe but putting our faith in God is the most important thing we can do. 实行我们所相信的(理念)有时是非常困难的，但虔信神是我们能做到的最重要的事情。

Yes! First we have to learn to notice. Then we must accept. We are responsible, not in charge (首先, 我们要学习观察。然后要接受。我们要承担责任, 但不主宰(成绩))。