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# The Cross and Crown

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Have you ever thanked God your big toe?

We don't often think about our big toes unless we stub them or drop something on them. When that happens, they're pretty much all we can think of! Well, it turns out that big toes are extremely important when it comes to jumping. In fact, you can't jump without big them!

In Judges, we read the story of Adoni-Bezek, a conquered king whose thumbs and big toes the Israelites cut off. In his only recorded words in the Bible, the former king



confesses that he, himself, had cut off the thumbs and big toes of 70 kings whom he had defeated. I used to think that this was done as an act of humiliation, and, I'm sure, on some level, it was. However, it was also a way of incapacitating an enemy. (As an experiment, try to open a wide-mouthed pickle jar or to sign your name without using your thumbs. Yes, it's possible, but it's definitely not easy!)

For a variety of reasons people sometimes think that they're insignificant – just a toe or a thumb in the body of Christ. Sometimes, it's because of (“I'm too old,” or “I'm just a kid”), or maybe

because of health or financial challenges or what they do for a living. The Bible, however, reminds us over and over that God delights in using those whom the world discounts and overlooks. You are precious to him!

Take a look at the envelope that this letter came in. If your name is on it, I thank God for you regularly! (I really mean that!)

Never underestimate anyone's value – including your own – because that person seems small and insignificant. Remember, it's not our ability that determines how much we can achieve but how willingness we are to be used by God.

*Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?*

*James 2:5*

# Thanks for Praying!

God cares for us! He listens and answers when we call out to him. We are so grateful for all that he's doing among us, in response to your prayers!





Please join us in praying

- for the moms and young children who have recently begun fellowshiping with us,
- for the students, families and staff at Spring Garden Academy, and
- for the Lord of the harvest to laborers and leaders to this field.

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please let us know.

We love hearing from you! Do keep in touch!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we understand! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

## Did you know?

The average raindrop reaches a high speed of 21.7 miles per hour. By comparison, Usain Bolt was traveling only slightly faster, with an average speed of 23.4 miles per hour, when he set the world record time of 9.58 seconds in the 100 Meter Dash.

**“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)**



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