



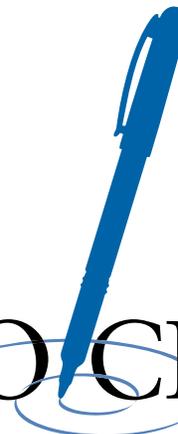
About the Author

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About Vintage Voice

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VINTAGE VOICE



Second Chances

By The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Copenhaver

I had purchased black oil sunflower seeds and kept the three feeders supplied, hanging beyond the rail of the deck. They were where they could be viewed from the chair where I was sitting in the living room. Occasionally one of the smaller birds, perhaps a nuthatch, chickadee, goldfinch, titmouse, or sparrow would bump into the sliding glass door between the feeders and where I sat reading and watching them.

I have used the word “bump” because if a little bird flew into the glass door, it would just seem to turn and keep flying in another direction — no problem I rationalized. That is, until one rather louder thump. I looked up from my reading to see a sparrow lying on the deck, upside down, wings fluttering for a few moments, and then, completely still.

And there it lay, and there I was, sad for the little critter, and guilty that I hadn't put some tape on the glass door to help, perhaps, in keeping it from being flown into by those little birds. As the minutes passed, I thought I would soon have to go outside and sadly pick up and dispose of that still little bird lying there.

Then, in a few more minutes, as I looked up from my reading — having put off the dreaded task — I noticed that his or her chest had started to rise and fall. Were my trifocals playing tricks on me? No. It was so — before only stillness, now a heaving chest. Then he or she righted, and lay there, head moving from side to side, looking around. Another few moments and the little guy or gal flew away. Hallelujah, how wonderful — it was exactly what I had hoped for.

So, I thought, what God lesson is there in this for me? If I could be glad that the little bird came back from what I thought was dead to being alive again and flying off, then how much gladder should I be over our faith in the Resurrection and being able to be alive in the Lord, now and eternally? And I was being given a second chance to put that tape on the glass door!

Second chances? We, as the retired, are sometimes given second chances that others, in busier lives, may not be given, because perhaps we have a bit more time. We may have opportunities to right situations, and then see them take wing.



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