**The Process Is Never Finished**

**For now we see through a mirror, darkly.**

***(1 Corinthians 13:12)***

**My brethren, I do not consider that I have reached the goal;**

**but this one thing I do know, forgetting those things which are behind,**

**I strive for those things which are before me.**

***(Philippians 3:13)***

**One of the most basic things I've tried to do is give people a greater understanding of how science works -- the importance of evidence, the importance of many trials, of rigorous studies, and the idea that we learn only a little at a time. No single study is the end-all answer fir everything. Making people aware of that process helps increase appreciation and respect for science, and that helps us make informed decisions for our families and ourselves. *(Alan Alda, in AARP The Magazine / Real Possibilities)***

**Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! In honor of Animal Crackers' 100th birthday, a koala bear will be added to the package in September. *(Rocky Mountain News, August 21, 2002)***

**Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how. The moment you know how, you begin to die a little. The artist never entirely knows. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark. *(Agnes de Mille, American dancer-choreographer)***

**Here is a test to find whether your mission on earth is finished: If you're alive, it isn't. *(Richard Bach)***

**In 1977, Pearl Bailey received an honorary doctorate in humane letters from Georgetown University, gave the commencement address -- and got an idea. "Who knows, folks," she told the audience, half jokingly, "I may be coming to this school." Sure enough, the following January, a 58-year-old freshman enrolled for a full schedule of courses at Georgetown. Pearl proved to be a dedicated student, taking her books wherever she went. Eventually she made the dean's list, and on May 25, 1985, she was awarded a B.A. in theology. Pearl loved being an example for others. "When I went back to school, fans would write: 'I'm 65. Is it too late for me to do the same?' I'd write back: 'Go for it, honey. My religion is action.'" *(Cab Calloway, in Reader's Digest)***

**Strange, I feel as if up to now I had written no more than a few notes. *(Ludwig van Beethoven, on his deathbed)***

**All endings are also beginnings. We just don’t know it at the time. *(Mitch Albom, in The Five People You Meet in Heaven)***

**Shortly after our son, Christopher, received the sacrament of confirmation, his godfather sent him a beautiful, large Bible. Christopher's thank-you note, written a couple of days later, was to the point: “Thank you for the Bible. It is very nice. I haven't finished reading it yet.” *(Joseph M. Vastine, in Reader's Digest)***

**A shareholder once asked Warren Buffett, “Now that you've become the richest man in the country, what is your next goal?" Buffett replied, “To be the oldest.” *(Reader's Digest)***

**I could paint for a thousand years without stopping and I would still feel as though I knew nothing. *(Paul Cezanne)***

**A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say. *(Italo Calvino)***

**You don’t get anything clean without getting something else dirty. *(Cecil Baxter, author)***

**This sign appeared in the window of a clothing store in Nottingham, England: “We have been established for over 100 years and have been pleasing and displeasing customers ever since. We have made money and lost money, suffered the effects of coal nationalization, coal rationing, government control and bad payers. We have been cussed and discussed, messed about, lied to, robbed and swindled. The only reason we stay in business is to see what happens next.” *(Richard L. Stingl, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Grandma: “Have you got ‘Dear Abby' there, Earl?” Grandpa: “Uh huh.” Grandma: “Can I have it?” Grandpa: “No. I'm doing the crossword and it's on the same page.” Grandma: “But it'll only take me a minute to read ‘Dear Abby’. How long will it take you to finish the crossword?” Grandpa: “I have no idea. I've never finished one.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Don’t stop digging! There may be a great idea still alive somewhere in your head. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

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**In the last 20 years, more than 50 new species of dinosaurs have been identified. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When it comes to dinosaurs, scientists have only scratched the surface. There are 527 known genera, from allosaurs to tyrannosaurs. But 1,317 genera have yet to be discovered, a Swarthmore College and University of Pennsylvania study estimates. So many fossils have been found in the past two decades, and unexplored sites are so numerous, that the researchers upped the previous estimate of dinosaur types by 50 percent. *(Smithsonian magazine)***

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**Grandma: “Someone told me that cobwebs aren’t made by spiders. They’re just dust. So I looked it up on the Internet. It said cobwebs are made by spiders, she was wrong.” Grandpa: “Well, I’m glad that’s settled. Maybe now you can investigate whether dust bunnies really do come from rabbits.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**How much of the earth is unexplored? What is left is approximately 140 million square miles of ocean floor, equal to two and half times the surface area of the earth’s islands and continents. *(Barbara Berliner, in The Book of Answers)***

**God only begat but one son, and the only begotten is forever begetting the begotten. *(Meister Eckhart, mystic)***

**When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember this -- you haven't.  
*(Thomas Edison)***

**The important thing is not to stop questioning. *(Albert Einstein)***

**My final decision is: maybe. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**A live fish in the open sea never stops growing. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**There is no point at which you can say, "Well, I'm successful now. I might as well take a nap." *(Carrie Fisher)***

**A Protestant bishop and a young scientist were discussing the end of the world, which, the bishop said, could not be far off since everything about nature had been discovered, and all possible inventions had been made. The younger man disagreed, saying he thought the next 50 years would produce more inventions and discoveries. "Name one!" the bishop demanded, and the young man suggested that in 50 years man would be able to fly like the birds. "Nonsense!" cried the bishop. "Flight is for the angels." The bishop's name was Wright. He had two young sons, Orville and Wilbur. *(Catholic Digest)***

**In Plain Sight: Where in the world could millions of 20-foot-tall trees flourish across an area larger than Delaware without scientists noticing them? In remote and war-torn hills between Ethiopia and Somalia. An Uppsala University botanist recently documented, for the first time., Acacia fumosa, a common tree with gray bark and pink flowers. More than 2,000 new species of flowing plants are described worldwide each year, but few are this conspicuous and widespread. *(Smithsonian magazine)***

**I always say, "On the day I die, I hope I learn something new." *(Kathie Lee Gifford, television host)***

**Nola Ochs, 95, has become the world’s oldest person to graduate from college. She started taking classes at Dodge City Community College in Kansas, after her husband died in 1972. Last fall, to earn her final credits, she moved from her farm, which was 100 miles away, to an on-campus apartment at Fort Hays State University. When she graduated last week to a standing ovation, with a degree in history, she did so alongside her 21-year-old granddaughter, Alexandra. When asked what she would do now, Ochs responded, “I’m going to seek employment on a cruise ship as a storyteller.” *(The Week magazine, May 25, 2007)***

**Dad: "You're never too old to learn." Billy: "I guess that's why Grandma knows so many things." *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Ziggy: “Sometimes it can seem like when you finally get a handle of life, it comes off in your hand!” *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**Grandma: “Earl, I’m so glad you finally sold all of those old National Geographics. We’ll finally have our garage back! Do you know what that means? We’ll be able to park our car in the garage for the first time in years!” Grandpa: “I wouldn’t count on it. The pool table I bought with the money won’t leave much room.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Oliver Wendell Holmes is generally regarded as one of the most outstanding justices in the history of the U.S. Supreme Court. He was known as the Great Dissenter because he disagreed with the other judges so much. Holmes sat on the Supreme Court until he was 91. Two years later, President Roosevelt visited him and found him reading Plato. “Why?” FDR asked. “To improve my mind,” Holmes answered. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Some people look upon any setback as the end. They’re always looking for the benediction rather than the invocation. *(Hubert Humphrey, former vice president)***

**The year 1972 saw the publication of the last edition of the classic “Natural History of Infectious Diseases,” by Nobel laureate Macfarlane Burnet and David White. Like two climbers reaching a summit, Burnet and White surveyed the impressive accomplishments of a century of germ-theory science. In their eyes, the triad of vaccination, antibiotics, and improved hygiene had virtually ended the threat of infectious disease in wealthy countries and was on its way to doing so in poorer countries as well. “The most likely forecast about the future of infectious disease,” they concluded, “is that it will be very dull." *(Paul W. Ewald & Gregory Cochran, in Natural History magazine)*   
Seven thousand new insect species are discovered every year. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 216)***

**Where necessity ends, curiosity begins; and no sooner are we supplied with everything that nature can demand, than we sit down to contrive artificial appetites. *(Samuel Johnson)***

**I am learning all the time. The tombstone will be my diploma. *(Eartha Kitt)***

**There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning. *(Louis L'Amour)***

**Mom: “Did you learn a lot on your first day?” Dolly: “No I hafta go back tomorrow.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Billy says to his Mom: “If I finish learning the piano next week, THEN can I play the drums?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end. *(John Lennon)***

**No matter where you look, in this mysterious world, there will always be things you don’t see. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**I've never been satisfied with anything we've ever built. I've felt that dissatisfaction is the basis of progress. When we become satisfied in business we become obsolete. *(J. Willard Marriott, Sr.)***

**Maturity is not a state one suddenly arrives at. It is a continuous development, achieved less by age than by insight. *(Michael Drury)***

**There was so much I didn't know. And I can't stand the thought of never being any smarter. *(Donald Harter, in Catholic Digest - 68-year-old former real estate developer in Wichita, Kansas, who after retirement earned six university degrees in different subjects)***

**Mushrooms mature, but they don’t get ripe. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Zoe: “Mom! We’re ready to go!” Mom: “Really? It’s so great that you guys can get dressed, wash your faces and brush your teeth without me having to nag you anymore! You did wash your faces and brush your teeth, right?” Zoe: “Maybe you should still nag us a little.” *(Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott, in Baby Blues comic strip)***

**Mom: “What are the names of some of your classmates?” Billy: “I don’t know. Mrs. Clarke hasn’t taught us that yet.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Nature’s music is never over; her silences are pauses, not conclusions. *(Mary Webb)***

**Never think you’ve seen the last of anything. *(Eudora Welty)***

**A new form of life? Strange microscopic organisms found in a British pond may force a fundamental rethink of how we classify living things. Close study of the organisms, called cryptomycota or “hidden fungi,” has led a team of British scientists to believe that they may not be fungi at all, but instead, constitute their own unique kingdom alongside plants and animals. Unlike most fungi, cryptomycota have no rigid cell walls to hold themselves together. Although specimens have been found everywhere from ocean sediment to farmland, scientists are still puzzling over how their bodies are structured, what they eat, and how they reproduce. “It is possible there are many different forms of this organism with a range of characteristics we don’t even know about yet,” researcher Meredith Jones of the University of Exeter tells LiveScience.com. She suggests that “they probably play an important role in a range of environmental processes.” DNA analysis shows that cryptomycota are older than any fungus yet uncovered and may be “the missing link,” Jones says, “between fungi and the rest of the kingdom of life.” *(The Week magazine, June 3, 2011)***

**I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me. *(Isaac Newton)***

**Any time we're tempted to think that our technology has gone about as far as it can go we should stop and remember a certain Commissioner of the U.S. Patent Office. In 1895 he proposed to Congress that the Patent Office be closed because all the great inventions had already been made. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**There’s no such thing as the perfect solution. Every solution, no matter how good, creates new problems. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Dark Energy was not predicted by standard theories of physics. That means our basic theories – our descriptions of elementary particles like electrons, neutrinos and quarks, and of the forces between them – need a major upgrade. Physics theories drive key parts of modern life, like electronics, engineering and medicine. Who knows what a more complete theory of physics could lead to? (*Meg Urry, in Parade magazine)***

**When asked to name his favorite among all his paintings, Pablo Picasso replied, “the next one.” *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 122)***

**Of the 80,000 known species of plants, only 50 are cultivated regularly. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 148)***

**Some people never learn anything because they understand everything too soon. *(Alexander Pope)***

**Just when I think I have learned the way to live, life changes. *(Hugh Prather)***

**If you’ve found someone you can’t touch, you have not reached far enough. *(Sandra Sommers)***

**Billy says to Mom: “You used to read that story to me, but I always fell asleep and never did hear the end.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Dad taught me all I know about remodeling by making an example of our house. Our house was like one of the great European cathedrals: never finished. *(Michael Feldman, in Catholic Digest)***

**American scientists claim they have discovered a new robin species in the Central African Republic, a find ornithologists say illustrates how little is known about birds in Africa. Pamela Beresford, a graduate student with the American Museum of Natural History in New York, found the bird in 1996. The small olive-brown bird is similar to other forest robins except that its throat and upper breast are bright yellow-red and its stomach is yellow. Other forest robins typically have white stomachs and upper breasts. *(Rocky Mountain News wire reports, August 31, 1998)***

**Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else. *(Fred Rogers)***

**Someone once said to me, “Rev. Schuller, I hope you live to see all your dreams fulfilled.” I replied, “I hope not, because if I live and all of my dreams**

**are fulfilled, I'm dead.” It's unfulfilled dreams that keep you alive. *(Rev. Dr. Robert Schuller, in Eagle magazine)***

**Don't worry about the world ending today -- it's already tomorrow in Australia. *(Charles M. Schulz)***

**Just when you think you see the whole picture of life clearly, the channel changes. *(Arnot L. Sheppard, Jr.)***

**Never retire. Michelangelo was carving the “Rondanini” just before he died at 89. Verdi finished his opera “Falstaff" at 80. And the 80-year-old Spanish artist Goya scrawled on a drawing, “I am still learning.” *(Dr. W. Gifford-Jones, columnist)*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Scientists have identified and described about 1.4 million species of an estimated 10 to 100 million on earth. *(Biodiversity Home Page)***

**Between 1997 and 2007, more than 1,000 species previously unknown to science were discovered in Southeast Asia’s Greater Mekong region, according to a report by the World Wildlife Fund. That’s about two new species a week. The Greater Mekong has the highest concentration of different ecosystems in mainland Asia, and the Mekong River supports more wildlife per square mile than the Amazon. *(Amanda Bensen, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**There are at least 3 million species of insects in existence, and 6,000 to 7,000 new ones are discovered each year. *(Barbara Seuling, in The Man in the Moon Is Upside Down in Argentina, p. 62)***

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**As a police officer, I thought that I'd encountered every imaginable response from the speeding motorists I pull over. Until, that is, I was chewed out by a woman in her late 30s. “Here,” she said with a huff as she handed me her cellular phone. “My mother wants to talk to you!” *(G. R. H., in Reader's Digest)***

**As anyone who gives talks to young audiences knows, children are adept at asking questions to which one does not know the answer. When I was asked to give such a talk on otters, I borrowed a stuffed specimen from the local museum and armed myself with as much information as I could gather. After telling the youngsters every last snippet I could think of, I sat back complacently and asked for questions. Immediately, a child pointed at the museum specimen and demanded, “What’s it stuffed with?” *(John Hughes, in The Animals Came In)***

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**The road to success is always under construction. *(Lily Tomlin)***

**“I just walked out on my wife,” a man said to his pal. “How did she take it?" his friend asked. “It's funny,” the fellow replied. “You live with someone for years but you never really know them. I had no idea she could sing and turn cartwheels at the same time.” *(Dik Browne, King Features)***

**Billy says to his teddy bear: “Watch TV, snacks, go potty, nap time . . . when will it ever end?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**When you’re through changing, you’re through. *(Bruce Barton)***

**It’s what you learn after you know it all that counts. *(John Wooden)***

**Many excellent words are ruined by too definite a knowledge of their meaning. *(Aline Kilmer, American poet)***

**Cheer up! The worst is yet to come! (*Philander Chase Johnson, American author)*  
Asked which of his works he would select as his masterpiece, architect Frank Lloyd Wright, at the age of 83, replied, “my next one.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**A flower unblown, a book unread, a tree with fruit unharvested; a Path untrod, a House whose rooms lack yet the heart's divine perfumes; This is the Year that for you waits beyond Tomorrow's mystic gates. *(Horatio Nelson Powers)***

**I’m not young enough to know everything. *(James Barrie)***

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