

# *Life Lessons*

## *“A Straight Lick with A Crooked Stick”*

One of the truly glorious attributes of our God is His tendency to do the most wonderful things through the most unexpected people.

Imagine a man raised in poverty, subjected to brutality, deprived of formal education, lacking all physical attractiveness becoming one of God's greatest trophies of grace! Such is the life of Christmas Evans (1766 – 1838). Named such because he was born on Christmas day, he became a gift of God to all of Wales and England.

Christmas Evans' father died while still a child. He was reared for six miserable years by an uncle that was a cruel alcoholic. At seventeen he could neither read nor write and had never been introduced to the love of God. He was often in fights and was stabbed and nearly drowned. In one such brawl, he lost his right eye and had to keep ointment in the empty socket to ease the pain. However, at seventeen he went to work for a Presbyterian minister on a farm and was sincerely converted during a revival. In the years that followed he taught himself to read and write, he learned both Greek and Hebrew, he came to speak both Welsh and English, and constantly studied his Bible and the writings of great servants of God. Evans became one of the most fiery and spellbinding preachers of his day and was known as “the one-eyed preacher from the north!”

Twice during Evans' life he made solemn covenants with God recorded them and signed every paragraph, “Amen, C.E.” In his last covenant one vital paragraph said,

*Grant Thy blessing upon bitter things, to brighten and quicken me, more and more, and do to depress me and make me lifeless.*

*Help me to wait silently, and patiently upon Thee, for the fulfillment of these things and not become enraged, angry, and speak unadvisedly with my lips, like Moses, the servant of the Lord. Sustain my heart from sinking, to wait for fresh strength from Zion.*

May God likewise use the crooked sticks in our lives to hit a straight lick for His glory!