

Every time I find out where it it's at, they move it.

Hiking to the store

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Have you ever been very confident in the existence of something, and then find out that it wasn't there? I remember one time that I drove to Nashville to see someone at St. Thomas Hospital. Well, I hadn't been in a while, but I was absolutely sure of where it was. After all, I had once been a guest there myself!

Well, I drove right to where it was, but once there I was somewhat perplexed. I drove around and around the area, until I got frustrated enough to ask for directions. At this point, I thought I had lost my mind. When I talked to someone else, though, I realized that the hospital had moved out West End Avenue some years earlier. I remembered that important fact all of a sudden. Maybe I had only lost a part of my mind.

Another time I was camping with a Scout troop in a place that I had been to several times previously, when some of the Scouts complained of being bored. I suggested that we hike down the hill to a store that I knew of. They had confidence in my leadership, and I had confidence in my knowledge of the existence of that store. But when we arrived at the site, I was again somewhat flustered. I was at the right place this time, but the store had burned down! The Scouts weren't bored anymore, but they were tired and hungry, and it all was my fault.

Life is like this at times, and it tends to shake our confidence. It reminds me of Lucy jerking the football away from Charlie Brown. Not that Charlie Brown could ever be described as really confident, but he committed himself to the idea that the ball would in the space that his foot would be swining through. It is not enough to make sure where we are going; we must make sure that the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow is really there.

It is good to know that we can have a complete confidence in God. Not in His giving us everything that we want, but in the presence of His Goodness. We may be hunting for Him in the wrong place, though. Peter, John, and Mary all were positive that they knew where Christ was after His crucifixion, but He was not at the tomb. His power had gone far beyond that confinement.

Some people today only look for the physical, or historical Jesus. The spiritual Jesus, however, has moved into the presence of God. He is the one that truly has the blessings we seek. For those who might look to me for leadership, I must point to the spiritual Jesus. That way, I won't disappoint them.