



Lillie Knauls

*When I was one-
and-twenty,
I heard a
wise man say,*

*Give crowns and pounds and guineas,
but not your heart away,
Give pearls away and rubies,
but keep your fancy free,
But I was one-and-twenty,
no use to talk to me.*

The last line of the first verse of that memorable poem by A. S. Housman is the way I felt at that overconfident age. I was certain that I knew a lot then and was so very excited about the “rest of my life,” I suppose that I thought only of myself and felt I had all the answers. I did not feel that I needed the advice of others. But God’s Word tells us that if we lack wisdom, let us ask of Him—for He is more than willing to comply. So, as time went on I saw the error of my ways and now, as I have grown older and reflect ... Wow!

One of the most important things I would say to my 21-year-old self is to always trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit—He is not only walking beside us, but also lives within—giving direction for the twists and turns of *life*. Young lady, please remember that there are things around you that you will not be able to change—people you cannot change—look at them all “with the eyes of Jesus.”

And Lillie, when thinking about love and marriage, do not lead with your heart; rather guard your heart. You must ask God to give you the right mate and you should only want His choice.

Now, at 77 years old, I reflect on that part of my life. I am grateful that God guided me through a very difficult period—not letting me marry even when I proceeded and became engaged. But as I look back, I now know that God had wonderful plans for me that did not have to include marriage, and I accepted them. God has blessed me because I made a choice that was not self-centered. And I can say with certainty I am grateful for all the exciting things that I have been a part of through the years—most notably being one of the Gaither Homecoming Friends—awesome!