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### EVERY LITTLE THING

It really is the little things that matter. Just ask any editor or teacher or, even more, ask anyone who looks back with pleasure (or regret) on what seemed to be a relatively unimportant choice at the time. In fact, said German statesman Konrad Adenauer, "History is the sum total of little things that could have been avoided."

Years ago my Mom gave me a great little book titled, "776 Even Stupidier Things Ever Said". Leafing through it I found a couple of examples of Adenauer's definition: on the menu of an upscale restaurant in Australia, *Stuffed egg-plant with minced crap*. Oops. Amazing how the choice of just one letter can undermine the work of a great chef. Here are a couple more offerings from around the world: *Dreaded Veal Cutlet with Potatoes in Cream; Pork with Fresh Garbage* and *Toes with Butter and Jam*. Ah, things that could have been avoided.

On a more serious note, who of us who can't think of something we'd like to do differently if only we could? I sure can. Makes me think of the old Negro spiritual that talks about needing help on "e'vry leanin' side". There's not a day goes by when I don't face my own "leanin' sides" and the vulnerability of the "little things" in my life. I was encouraged, then, to read that God cares so deeply about my spiritual and moral protection that not only does He promise to maintain the integrity of my moral and spiritual gates but He has promised to reinforce the individual bars that make up those gates. We win and lose by how we choose to deal with little things.

"For he strengthens the **bars** of your **gates** and blesses your people within you," Psalm 147:13- NIV-UK).

(P.S. He also provides editors to help writers like me)