

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. What is your life?
For ye are a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
James 4:14 (ASV)

Colors fade, temples crumble, empires fall, but wise words endure.
EDWARD L. THORNDIKE

This is a story that follows two friends through life.

Their desire to help the world, each in his own way, takes them on separate paths; but circumstances will bring them together one last time.

Final Words

by Jeffrey Robert Smith

VERSE 1: We were next-door, neighbor kids,
Playing in each other's yards.
Just two young boys with soldier toys,
At the changing of the guard.

We had all the things that boys could want,
Though a few were just pretend.
And among my mem'ries treasured most,
Were the years that we were friends.

REFRAIN 1: If I had to do it over,
I would not have changed a thing.
But we don't know when this song of life will end,
So we only choose to sing.

VERSE 2: The days at school were mostly good;
Oh, we had so much to learn.
So we left the yard, and we studied hard;
And the years, like pages, turned.

We attended diff'rent colleges,
Forming diff'rent schools of thought.
So we met the world with open minds,
Taking in what we were taught.

REFRAIN 2: You pursued the ways of politics,
For the power and the fame.
I pursued the ways of the One True God,
For the power in the Name.

VERSE 3: Through our lives we tried to keep in touch,
But we drifted more apart.
With the passing years, so much time is lost
In the mem'ry and the heart.

Well I heard that you had won the vote;
You're a senator by trade.
You would earn the fame, and wield the power
Where the laws of men are made.

REFRAIN 3: And I wrote: "Congratulations!
All the world's within your reach."
It was neatly typed on the letterhead
Of the church where, now, I preach.

VERSE 4: Is there ever time to stop and think
Why we live the lives we do?
Some will make a choice; others hear a voice;
Some will see their dreams come true.

But it all depends on what you want,
And on just how hard you'll try.
For each one with claims to no regrets,
There are two who'll wonder why.

REFRAIN 4: Though we shared our dreams as children,
Did you ever think it odd.....
That you found power in ruling men,
And I found power in God?

VERSE 5: Through the years I heard the stories told,
Of the deeds that you had done.
And your voice was heard in the cause of peace,
And the battles you had won

In the war to feed the hungry mouths;
Finding jobs to help the poor.
And I prayed for you to stay as true
To the things that you stood for.

REFRAIN 5: And you fin'ly wrote to tell me
That you planned on stopping in,
To see the church of a friend whose prayers
Might have helped your cause to win.

VERSE 6: While you earned your place in history;
A celebrity of sorts...

I was saving souls for a precious few,
At the church where I hold court.

I'd be proud to say I knew you once;
And, from time to time, I will.
But events have made it hard to say
That I really know you still.

REFRAIN 6: And the headlines told the story
From its end to aftermath.....
The assassin's aim was accurate,
And you were in it's path.

VERSE 7: Now I pray to ask why life must end
Much too soon, and so alone?
Shouldn't someone who might have saved the world,
Have the power save his own?

So you fin'ly made that trip back home,
But this time would be your last.
And beside you I stand, lost for words,
As I eulogize your past.

REFRAIN 7: "So old friend, wish I could tell you,"
I say, holding back the tears,
"Though, in life, I had the final words,
Yours will speak beyond our years."