

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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It's Hard to be Humble

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

"Humility is not a mere ornament of a Christian, but an essential part of the new creature. It is a contradiction in terms, to be a Christian, and not be humble." - Richard Baxter

"It's Hard to be Humble" is a song written and recorded by country music artist Mac Davis in the spring of 1980. It became an international hit and was later covered by Willie Nelson in 2019.

Its tongue-in-cheek chorus goes like this...

*Oh Lord, it's hard to be humble
When you're perfect in every way
I can't wait to look in the mirror '
Cause I get better lookin' each day
To know me is to love me
I must be a hell of a man
Oh Lord, it's hard to be humble
But I'm doin' the best that I can!*

Obviously, Mac Davis wrote the lyrics in jest, but there are far too many people these days who take them to heart. I can just imagine Muhammad Ali, the self-proclaimed "Greatest of All Time," singing the song to himself as he shadowboxed while gazing at his reflection in the mirror. The same goes for aging vocalist Madonna, Taylor Swift, or any of the Kardashians. On the male side, I'm sure that George Clooney, Matthew McConaughey, Brad Pitt, and Ryan Reynolds have at least hummed a few bars to themselves.

The truth of the matter is that pride is a vice

and humility is a virtue. The former comes easily, but the latter takes lots of time and effort to master... and even then, we never quite get there. Pride is destructive (see Proverbs 16:18) whereas true humility is something to be sought after and highly valued.

Since, despite what Mac Davis said, no one except Jesus is 100% perfect, we should try our best to emulate Him. As Christ humbled Himself (see Philippians 2:5-8), so should we consider others better than ourselves (see Philippians 2:3-4). Hard to do, but well worth the try!

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." - Colossians 3:12 (BSB)

Travel Agent vs. Prison Minister

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

"God is glorified when we serve Him in our proper vocations." - C.H. Spurgeon

In which position did I glorify God the most? As a travel agent, which was my first job after I graduated from college, or as the Recreation Director at a retirement community? I only worked at the travel agency for six months, but I stayed at the retirement community for almost 11 years.

How about the 24 years I spent as founder and executive director of The Saints Prison

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Lie Low Before the Throne

by Alistair Begg

"To us, O Lord, belongs open shame ... Because we have sinned against you." - Daniel 9:8

A deep sense and clear view of sin, its dreadfulness, and the punishment that it deserves should make us lie low before the throne. We have sinned as Christians. It is sad that it should be so. We have been favored, and yet we have been ungrateful; privileged beyond most, but we have not brought forth fruit in proportion. Who is there, although he may have been engaged in the Christian warfare for years, who will not blush when he looks back upon the past? As for our days before we were born again, may they be forgiven and forgotten; but since then, though we have not sinned as before, yet we have sinned against light and against love - light that has really penetrated our minds, and love in which we have rejoiced.

The sin of a pardoned soul is an atrocity! An unpardoned sinner sins cheaply compared with the sin of one of

God's elect, who has had communion with Christ and leaned upon Him for his comfort. Look at David! Many will talk of his sin, but I ask you to look at his repentance and hear his broken bones as each one of them moans out its mournful confession! Consider his tears as they fall upon the ground, and the deep sighs with which he accompanies the softened music of his harp!

We have strayed: Let us, therefore, seek the spirit of penitence. Look again at Peter! We often speak of how he denied Christ. Remember, it is written, "He wept bitterly." Do we have no denials of our Lord to be lamented with tears? These sins of ours, before and after conversion, would consign us to the place of inextinguishable fire if it were not for God's sovereign mercy, which snatched us like sticks from the fire.

My soul, bow down under a sense of your natural sinfulness, and worship your God. Admire the grace that saves you - the mercy that spares you - the love that pardons you!

Devotional material is taken from "Morning and Evening," written by C.H. Spurgeon, revised and updated by Alistair Begg. Copyright © 2003, Good News Publishers

Belief or Unbelief

by Os Hillman

"...Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." - Romans 4:3

You can be a believer yet act as though there is no God. Whenever you fret over life circumstances, you immediately demonstrate unbelief. Whenever you move out of fear or anxiety, you believe a lie about God's nature.

Each day your actions affirm or convict you of your belief system. It reveals who the central focus of your life really is - you or God. It reveals who you place your ultimate trust in - you or God. It is one of the great paradoxes for believers. One day we can believe Him to move mountains. The next day we can question His very existence.

- Peter believed God and walked on water.
- A sick woman touched the hem of His garment and was healed.
- A Canaanite woman believed and freed her daughter from demon-possession.

In what circumstances do you act as an "unbeliever"? Ask God to increase your level of trust so that your actions match up with one who believes every day.

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Living H2O Photos



Travel Agent vs. Prison Minister

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Ministry, the last 17 of which were full-time? Or maybe it is the nearly 13 years that I have led Risk Takers for Christ after relocating to Florida from New Jersey?

Hmmm... decisions, decisions.

The first two jobs weren't in actual ministry and so, they don't count as much to God as the other two, right? After all, I only led one person to saving faith in Christ at Liberty Travel and, although the retirement community was Christian-owned and operated, my job was to provide recreation programs for the 300 residents there... not exactly a sacred calling... or was it?

The truth of the matter is that I think God was just as pleased - and glorified - by my making people's travel arrangements and organizing resident trips and other activities at the Wiley Christian Retirement Community as He was during my tenures with SPM and RTC. The bottom line is that any vocation can be... and should be... considered a divine calling if God has placed you there and you are giving it your absolute all.

Here is what Charles Spurgeon, the "Prince of Preachers," had to say on the subject...

"Take care, dear reader, that you do not neglect the path of duty by leaving your occupation, and take care you do not dishonor your profession while in it. Think little of yourselves, but do not think too little of your callings. Every lawful trade may be sanctified by the Gospel to noblest ends. Turn to the Bible, and you will find the most menial forms of labor connected either with most daring deeds of faith or with persons whose lives have been illustrations of holiness."

"Therefore do not be discontented with your calling. Whatever God has made your position or your work, remain in that, unless you are quite sure that He calls you to something else. Let your first concern be to glorify God to the best of your ability where you are. Fill your present sphere to His praise, and if He needs you in another, He will show it to you. This evening lay aside anxious ambition, and embrace peaceful content."

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." - I Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

Church History 101: Ministers & Martyrs

Midway Bible Fellowship
1950 S US Highway 1, Vero Beach

The last Sunday of every month
at 6 p.m.

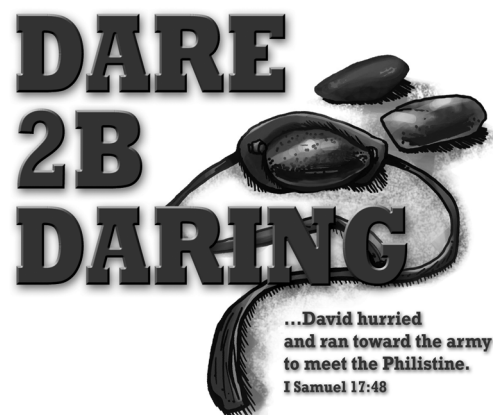
All welcome... Free pizza!



COMING THIS FALL!!!

Dare 2B Daring Men's Conference
& Sports Memorabilia Show

Details to follow...



My Death Valley Experiences

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

“Fiery trials make golden Christians.” - C.H. Spurgeon

I invite you to look back on your life and ask yourself a singular question...

During which times did you grow the most spiritually: (A) the mountaintop experiences or (B) when you were down in the valley? If you are like me, there is only one possible (and correct) answer, and it is B.

Sure, sitting atop a mountain and basking in God’s glory is a lot more fun than wallowing in the depths of a dark and dreary valley. But I dare say that more growth takes place in the cold, wet valleys of life where we are crying out to God and clinging helplessly but determinedly to His promises.

Of course, no one wants to stay in those valleys longer than necessary. After all, we are all human and tests, trials, troubles, and tribulations can drain you physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. However, the lessons learned there - when properly applied - can and will serve you extremely well in your Christian walk.

For instance, I have been fully “broken” at least twice in my life. The first time came after graduating college in 1981. I couldn’t find a full-time job in my chosen field for 10 months and the girl that I planned to marry dumped me unceremoniously. The second time was in 2011, when our family relocated from New Jersey to Florida. I went from leading a very successful prison ministry where I earned \$70,000 per year to grossing \$18,000 working three part-time jobs.

Would I want to repeat either of those “Death Valley” experiences? Not on your life! But were they necessary for my spiritual growth and development? Absolutely!

I wouldn’t go so far as saying that I am now, in the words of Charles Spurgeon, a “golden Christian.” However, I can gaze in the rearview mirror of life and say that I am marginally but discernably more Christlike. I judge less, forgive more, and hold fewer grudges. Best of all, I love more deeply and unconditionally.

“Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered.” - Hebrews 5:8 (BSB)



We Have a QR Code

Everyone can use a spiritual lift in the morning, especially on weekdays when work, school, and other demands vie for our time and attention... and sap our strength. Risk Takers for Christ wants to help by offering a free weekday devotional message that will challenge and encourage you in your daily walk.



Point your smart-phone camera at this QR code to receive an uplifting devotional message each weekday.



Midway Bible Fellowship

Proclaiming God’s Truth & Demonstrating His Love

8:30 a.m. - Coffee & donuts

9 a.m. - Worship service

1950 S US Hwy 1, Vero Beach FL

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