



Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

“Stupidity”

Thursday, December 8, 2016

“Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Verse for the week: Proverbs 3:7 (NLT) “Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”

Stupidity is defined as: *behavior that shows a lack of good sense or judgment.*

Several years ago, Robert Overacker equipped himself with a homemade rocket-parachute contraption and rode a jet ski over Horseshoe Falls at full throttle. He planned to ignite the rocket to propel him clear of the falls, then deploy the parachute and float down to the river below, where he would be fished out by the Maid o' the Mist tour boat.

But the water had a dampening effect on his equipment. The rocket failed to ignite and the parachute failed to deploy. His body was recovered by Maid of the Mist staff. Robert became the fifteenth person since 1901 to intentionally go over the Falls in or on a device. (<http://darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin2000-26.html>)

The above story would be an illustration of not showing good sense. I don't have room to talk because recently I headed to the airport for a mission trip without checking my passport. Once I arrived at the airport it was discovered that my passport was expired. I was not able to go. My actions didn't just affect me but those in the country I was headed to, the other team members, and those who were praying and gave financially. Robert Overackers action not only affected himself but the wife that he left behind. When we don't use good sense or judgment, it affects others. That's probably why the writer of Proverbs said: (NLT) **21 My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them.**

What causes stupidity? Too often we are impatient and impetuous (acting quickly and without thought or care.) Generally, we have time to think through what the consequences might be for our actions, but we don't take the time to do it. Had I thought of the consequences, I would have checked and made arrangements to update my passport. Had Robert not been impetuous, he would still be around for his wife. Some people don't think about the consequences of missing church, drinking, working too much, or sitting around watching too much television. The next time you are in a hurry, slow down and analyze the situation. We can usually avoid stupidity if we just take the time to think about the consequences.

Questions to ask yourself: What are you doing that you need to step back and analyze the situation before impetuously acting?