

## Elevator Faith

Faith conversations and accomplishments are like elevator moments, they work on so many different levels!

We must be aware of the momentary impact of what happens in any faith context, and of all the levels that God shapes the people and events of today's world.

The earthly results are sometimes immediately apparent. A person smiles instead of cries. A person is healed from an illness. A person who did not believe becomes a child of faith.

But the spiritual results are sometimes a little harder to appreciate. One more person in the kingdom of heaven. God is pleased at a word or action of faith. Other people may believe or be blessed by what has happened. And the list can go on and on.

Sometimes we can get sidetracked on things which should be addressed before we go up or down. We must refocus on what is most important. The basics of the faith. The Bible. Jesus Christ as Savior. Prayer.

"Bill, Jim and Scott were at a convention together and were sharing a large suite on the top of a 75-story skyscraper. After a long day of meetings, they were shocked to hear that the elevators in their hotel were broken and they would have to climb 75 flights of stairs to get to their room. Bill said to Jim and Scott, "Let's break the monotony of this unpleasant task by concentrating on something interesting. I'll tell jokes for 25 flights, Jim can sing songs for the next 25 flights and Scott can tell sad stories for the rest of the way."

At the 26th floor, Bill stopped telling jokes and Jim began to sing.

At the 51st floor Jim stopped singing and Scott began to tell sad stories.

"I will tell my saddest story first," Scott said. "I left the room key in the car...."

Don't leave the key to faith at home when you have taken a long journey up toward heaven. Don't forget that Jesus is the way, the truth, the key if you will, to heaven. Without him we might as well just walk back down the stairs, for we are wasting our time and energy.

We must also realize that we are, whether we realize it or not, being raised by spiritual fathers and mothers of faith. Look for and embrace floors of faith which tell us much more than we were thinking at the moment.

A man enters an elevator and asks the old operator sitting there to take him to the top floor. The operator takes them to the top floor and opens the door.

Operator: "There you go, son."

Man: ( Irritatedly ) "Don't call me that, old man. You are not my father!"

Operator: "Well, I brought you up, didn't I?"

Indeed we were brought up in faith by people we may not even recognize until years later. But they formed and lifted and encouraged the beginnings of faith in our hearts, and we owe them a great deal.

Faith can also give us words which have insight much beyond the moment. Remember the times we spend in elevators, and how little is said, and how much even a short sentence can move people to higher thought and action. Think about what you can say to someone in the elevator which might encourage them.

Like, "When you get off and someone else is getting on, look them in the eye and say 'You're in charge until I get back.' "

Or, for those Star Trek fans out there, "Number 1, you have the bridge."

Or, "God bless you. Have a nice day. Thanks for travelling with me."

If we think about life as an elevator, and even push the metaphor to say that faith is the elevator of elevators, we must do the best we can with the brief moments of travel there, and use them well. God can bless us. We can be fortunate to have things, to be successful, and to be blessed with many things. But we only have them temporarily, and when we get to the top, and it is our goal to get there for sure, we hope and pray that others will follow the buttons we pushed.

Kevin Spacey, a great character actor, said of this elevator principle, "If you're lucky enough to do well, it's your responsibility to send the elevator back down." Kevin Spacey

Finally, and no offence to the people who put music in elevators, we must know and serve wonderfully the eternal, all powerful, and fully divine and human

Jesus Christ. We must walk on water, walk through oceans on dry land, and see miracles happen because we walk with the one who does that.

John Eldredge put it this way. “We've made elevator music of Jesus Christ. We've made Him the most boring, bland, blah person; and He was the most revolutionary man.”

Not only *was* he not elevator music, he *is* the best, most inspiring, and most moving music ever written.

And, to step back into the elevator for one more moment.

“They have their ups and downs.”

“Elevators can really push my buttons.”