



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Imagine having a birth defect that will eventually result in blindness. Imagine being nine years old when learning this devastating news. That's exactly the challenge facing 11-year-old Ben Pierce. He was born prematurely at 23 weeks, weighing only 1 pound and 6 ounces.

Coming to the realization that any day his sight could be lost was no easy task for Ben. Ben's family now helps him prepare for his future as he deals with the challenges of blindness.

As a part of his preparation, Ben has created a bucket list of things to see before his sight is totally gone. The list includes mountains, oceans, and animals.

In the book of Philippians, the Apostle Paul talks about his bucket list after blindness. Paul was blinded one day on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:3–9). Before this event, Paul had the full function of both eyes and yet was spiritually blind. In fact, it wasn't until after he was blinded that he really began to see the revelation of Jesus Christ. His life before blindness had been one of many accomplishments. He had seen many places and done many things. Yet Paul's bucket list did not have meaning until after he became blind.

Paul stated in Philippians 3:8 that all he had seen and

accomplished before his blindness was useless or as dung compared to the joy of knowing Jesus Christ.

Ben Pierce has a seemingly endless list of things he wants to see and do, and yet Paul had only one thing on his list. The sole entry on Paul's bucket list is found in Philippians 3:8b–11. Paul's wish was . . . *That I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.*

Ben Pierce's bucket list consists of all the sights that a young boy could imagine at eleven; whereas Paul's bucket list consisted of the only important sight that one who has met Jesus Christ could imagine, and that's to know Him and all that is to be known in the power of His resurrection.

For each individual, the bucket list is very important! If asked today, "What's on your bucket list?" how would you respond?

May God grant you wisdom as you select the items for your bucket list.





Some people take their fun to extremes. Perhaps that's why someone invented bungee jumping, deep sea fishing, whitewater rafting, hang-gliding, parasailing, and roller coasters. But we humans have an innate desire for one-ups-manship. For every diehard parasailor, there is another person who wants to do something crazy like walk across the Grand Canyon on a 2-inch-thick steel cable suspended 1,500 feet above the ground.

On Sunday, June 23, 2013, Nik Wallenda did just that.

Without a harness, "The King of the High Wire" completed the 1,400-foot trip across the Grand Canyon in 22 minutes. Twice, 30 mph winds forced Nik to his knees and caused the cable to shake eerily in front of him. As video cameras trained upon him, the professional high-wire artist could be heard praying, "Thank You, Lord. Thank You for calming that cable, God."

Nik had performed similar stunts before. In fact, a year ago he walked over Niagara Falls on a tightrope. While professionals like Nik make their stunts look easy, if they are honest they will confess there is more to their work than meets the eye. Before his recent stunt, Nik admitted, "Mentally it's a lot more draining than physically. I've done it my entire life and the physical part comes fairly naturally. The mental part is always something that I have to work on."

A professional stuntman cannot perform without thinking. Neither can a Christian. Being in the right frame of mind is one of the keys to spiritual stability. In 1 Peter 1:13, the Apostle Peter (who learned from his frequent instability in the years he spent following Jesus) wrote, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

I have heard a pastor compare "girding up the loins of your mind" to an ancient runner who had to tuck in the folds of his long, flowing tunic as he prepared for a race. The runner would do this so he was free to concentrate on his running. Christians are wise to follow suit. We must be careful to gird up our minds on a daily basis so that our thoughts do not hinder us in the race of life.

Girding up our minds would not be possible without Philippians 4:8. God graciously provided this verse because He knew we would need it. It says, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest,

whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Before we can change the way we act, we have to change the way we think. In the 43 words of this verse, we have the key to initiating that change and experiencing stability in any setting or circumstance. (I would encourage you to look up each of the traits described in this verse in your dictionary as a part of your daily devotions.)

My prayer is that you will never get so caught up in the physical rigors of the Christian life that you neglect to prepare mentally. How do you know . . . >>> [Read full article](#)



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