

Boy, 6, Surfs for the First Time

Author Mike Barrett, a dedicated surfer, writes in his book, *The Danger Habit*, about taking his 6-year-old son, Caleb, surfing for the first time.

After months of planning the trip and talking to Caleb about how to surf, and how warm the water is in Hawaii, and how “cool” surfers are in Hawaii, Mike and his son rented a long board off the beach in Waikiki and walked into the water.

They started by lying together on the deck of the 10-foot-long board and paddling out 100 yards in the ocean. On the way out, Caleb had some questions: “What if I fall? What if we can’t catch a wave?” But once they were in position, Caleb was ready. They slowly turned the board around and waited.



When a wave came, Mike started paddling as hard as he could while Caleb got ready to stand up in front of him and surf. Caleb caught on pretty fast. Sometimes, he would jump up even before they even caught the wave. But when his timing was right, and the wave propelled them toward the shore, joy poured out of Caleb’s body. It was the most wonderful experience imaginable.

Here’s the interesting thing, says Mike. “Caleb can’t swim.” This made Mike’s wife a bit nervous. Of course, Mike felt the high stakes were somehow part of what made the experience so thrilling for both of them.

Mike is careful to note that the water was crystal clear and only about four feet deep, so if Caleb had slipped off the board, Mike could have easily grabbed him and lifted him to safety.

This was a turning point, however, for Caleb. He had ventured into a place of danger with his loving and protective father and emerged from the water alive and changed. From that day on, Caleb called himself a surfer. Caleb knew he could trust his dad, and so he could relax and enjoy the experience.

What are we to draw from this story? These questions ...

1. Do you trust your heavenly Father?
2. Do you see God as a loving and protective parent who will not let you go under?
3. Then why do you have that worried expression on your face?

(more)

How we see God will determine how vitally we will live out our faith.

And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you (Psalm 9:10 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter