

MAMA GIRAFFE'S TEACHING

The late Zig Ziglar, author and internationally recognized motivational speaker, loved to tell the following story, and it appears in his book *Something Else to Smile About*.

The giraffe is the largest mammal that gives birth to its young while standing up. Imagine what the baby giraffe must be thinking when he bounces on the ground from that great height.

He just left warm, cushioned quarters in which all of his needs, comforts and security were provided. Now he finds himself bouncing off (comparatively speaking) hard, cold, unwelcome ground.

Almost immediately thereafter, a new trauma occurs in the baby giraffe's life. As he struggles to his knees, Mama Giraffe gets busy "persuading" him to stand up. She does this as he wobbles to his feet by giving him a swift kick to prod him to faster action. No sooner does he reach his feet than Mama delivers a booming kick that knocks the baby giraffe back down.



Surely, the baby giraffe must be thinking, "Well, make up your mind, Mom! First you kicked me to make me stand up. Then you kicked me back down!"

Interestingly enough, once the baby giraffe is back on the ground, Mama Giraffe again starts kicking and nudging until he stands back up.

That process is repeated several times because Mama Giraffe loves her baby. Or is it instinct? Who can say with certainty?



This we know for certain, however. Baby Giraffe is a prime delicacy for carnivorous animals, which are a part of his environment. Mama Giraffe knows that the only chance of survival for her baby is to be able to quickly get up and move out of harm's way.

Sure, kicking the baby up and down seems like a strange way to show love. But for a baby giraffe, it is the ultimate expression of love.

Caution: That approach definitely won't work in the "people" world, but the principle will.

Real love is evidenced when one does what is best for the other person, whether or not he or she appreciates it at that moment.

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (Hebrews 12:11 ESV).