

Parachuting, and a Warning

Every year, *The Parachutist*, which is the official publication of the United States Parachute Association, publishes an article entitled *fatality summary*.

In it, a writer analyzes the factors contributing to parachuting deaths in the previous year.

Parachutists are classified first as students, then after 20 jumps they receive their A license. After 50 jumps, they receive their B license. After 100 jumps, they receive their C license. After 200 jumps, their D license.

In one year's analysis, an alarming statistic emerged: 59 percent of all parachuting fatalities were suffered by elite jumpers, those with a D license. A graph accompanying the article showed a dramatic upward spike for fatalities among those with 200 to 1,000 jumps. The line on the graph falls again for those with more than 1,000 jumps.



The lesson is clear: Just because a person is mature doesn't mean he or she is invulnerable. Is it possible that some parachutists with between 200 and 1,000 jumps got overconfident?

Can that happen in the spiritual realm? Yes it can.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)

Let us be constantly alert to guard ourselves against a fall.

– Beecher Hunter