

Pursuing a Star of Fame

Carl Perkins was a singer-songwriter who recorded most notably at the Sun Studio in Memphis, beginning in 1954.

Perkins was a popular rockabilly singer and the author of the classic song *Blue Suede Shoes*, which was one of Elvis Presley's first big hits.

As a guitarist, Perkins influenced many of the next generation of rock 'n' rollers, most prominently George Harrison of the Beatles. Paul McCartney claimed that "if there were no Carl Perkins, there would be no Beatles."



Perkins never quite attained the fame of some of his more notorious colleagues. He once explained it like this: "I never envied Elvis, his mansion and all that. All those boys – Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison – they all lost their wives, their families. People say 'What happened to you, Carl? All of them went on to superstardom. Where'd you go?' I say, 'I went home.' And that's a good place to be."

Carl Perkins made a choice not to follow the star of fame with the same intensity as some of his contemporaries. He felt that his star was at home. Sometimes that is a wise choice to make. Not every star is worthy of being followed. Many people are by nature impulsive. They may jump at any star – only to regret it later.

Still, if we all chose to stay at home, the world would come to a grinding halt. Nothing happens in this world until someone has a dream, sees a star like the Wise Men did in the Christmas story, and follows it. The Magi were men of action and men of determination.

Theirs might have seemed to be a foolish adventure at times – following a star they had seen in the East. But they persevered until the star they followed came to rest over a house, and they knew their journey was complete.

I love it when people follow through on a noble task, a mission, and see it through – whether the task is building a business, or a home, or serving selflessly a frail and vulnerable population of seniors – faithful to the star that has been set before them.

Jesus said it: *One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much* (Luke 16:10 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter