

Riding a Giant Roller Coaster

Mark D. Roberts, in his book *Dare to Be True*, tells of accompanying his son, Nathan, on an outing to Six Flags Magic Mountain, a theme park in Southern California.



Six Flags Magic Mountain features an enormous roller coaster named, quite appropriately, Goliath. That ride offers such thrills as a 255-foot, nearly vertical drop, which propels the hapless rider at a speed of 85 miles per hour into a pitch-dark tunnel.

Nathan loved it – and Mark Roberts loves his son.

So, that particular day, Roberts, with a certain amount of apprehension, found himself hurtling at breakneck speeds hundreds of feet in the air aboard a roller coaster named Goliath.

But guess what? To his amazement, Roberts discovered he felt a great feeling of freedom as he rode on Goliath – freedom to enjoy the ride, freedom to feel the rush of the wind, freedom to react to the

dips and turns, and even freedom to let go of the handles; at least, for a moment.

Why did he feel so free? Ironically, he said it was because he was utterly constrained. “The coaster train ran on a meticulously constructed steel track that wasn’t going anywhere. Thank God and Magic Mountain engineers.”

He was restrained in his seat with a steel harness that clamped tightly around his torso. So, he was able to experience – and even love – the freedom of speed and the sense of danger because he was completely free. He was tethered to the train, which was tethered to the track, which was tethered to the ground.

There is a spiritual corollary to this story ...

The point is that the closer we are tethered to God, the more freedom and joy we can experience as we make our way through life, which – like the roller coaster – is filled with ups and downs, twists and turns. When we are tethered to God, it makes it easier to resist those temptations that appeal to our baser instincts but in the long run bring only heartache and estrangement from those we love and from God.

The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23 KJV).

(more)

Are you tethered to Christ? You can be. Jesus told us how:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 NKJV).

That's the unbreakable tether. And because of it, you can have true freedom in everyday living.

– Beecher Hunter