

## Riding on the Texas Giant

At Six Flags Over Texas theme park in Arlington, there is a famous ride known as the Texas Giant. It is the newly renovated, giant wooden roller coaster that now boasts being the largest wooden roller coaster in the world, with the steepest drop of any wooden roller coaster at 70 degrees.

In addition, the hill is now 10 feet taller than before, with more twists and turns. Yes, you get it! It is death defying.

Witnesses to the daredevil rides, watching from the trains that replicate the 1961 Cadillac DeVille, notice that some people are riding, screaming, with their heads in their hands and eyes tightly shut. They're afraid to see what's coming next.



At the same time, they notice others on the same ride enduring the same lifts, sharp turns, and 70-degree drops, but with their hands in the air, eyes wide open, and screaming with a confidence that seems almost reckless. Their attitude is one of confidence; they're saying, "Bring it on!" Or, in the vernacular of today, they've "got swagger."

Life is so much like a roller-coaster ride. It may start slowly, steadily speed up, encounter abrupt turns and sudden sharp falls, followed by much higher climbs and even steeper falls. But just as we should expect ups and down from a roller-coaster ride, we should assume the same in life.

Unlike a roller-coaster ride, however, we don't have the choice of *watching* this ride of life. We are *on* the ride, and the only choice is how we will ride. Do we have our head in our hands, with eyes closed? Or do we handle it with our hands in the air with the confidence that only comes because we know who really controls the ride?

For the saints of God, this is not bragging in our own strength; it is not sagging pants – a show of our individual arrogance. It is not the drag of empty talk about the power of self-esteem. It is godly swagger that only comes as we face life with the assurance that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord – the One who loves us supremely and guides our path.

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter