

# The Turtle on the Fence Post

Alex Haley, author of *Roots*, kept on the wall of his office a picture of a turtle sitting on a fence. To him, the image held a powerful lesson.

His explanation: “If you are a turtle on top of a fence post, you know he had some help.”

I like what Charles (Chuck) Swindoll, pastor, author and educator, wrote about this subject in his book *The Finishing Touch*.



“All of us are surrounded by and benefit from the results of someone’s quest,” he wrote. Then he named a few:

- *Above my head is a bright electric light. Thanks, Tom.*
- *On my nose are eyeglasses that enable me to focus. Thanks, Ben.*
- *In my driveway is a car ready to take me wherever I choose to steer it. Thanks, Henry.*
- *Across my shelves are books full of interesting and carefully researched pages. Thanks, authors.*
- *Flashing through my mind are ideas, memories and creative skills. Thanks, teachers.*
- *Tucked away in the folds of my life are discipline and determination, a refusal to quit when the going gets rough, a love for our country’s freedom, a respect for authority. Thanks, Marines.*
- *Coming into my ears is beautiful music – a wonderful mix of melody and rhythm and lyrics that linger. Thanks, composers.*
- *Deep inside me are personality traits, strong convictions, a sense of right and wrong, a love for God, an ethical compass, a commitment to my wife and family. Thanks, parents.*
- *At home is a peaceful surrounding of eye-pleasing design, colorful wallpaper, tasteful and comfortable furnishings, hugs of affirmation – a shelter in a time of storm. Thanks, Cynthia.*
- *My list could go on and on. So could yours.*

Because some cared enough to dream, to pursue, to follow through and complete their quests, our lives are more comfortable, more stable.

Being put on a fence post is a wonderful opportunity – understanding that others helped put you there and that God has a plan for you. But we should view any such situation from a perspective of humble gratitude. After all, we didn’t get there all on our own.

That is enough to spur me on. How about you?

– Beecher Hunter