

What Buzz Lightyear Learned

In Disney's animated movie *Toy Story*, Woody (a toy cowboy) confronts Buzz Lightyear (a toy astronaut) with the fact that he is only an action figure and not really a space hero.

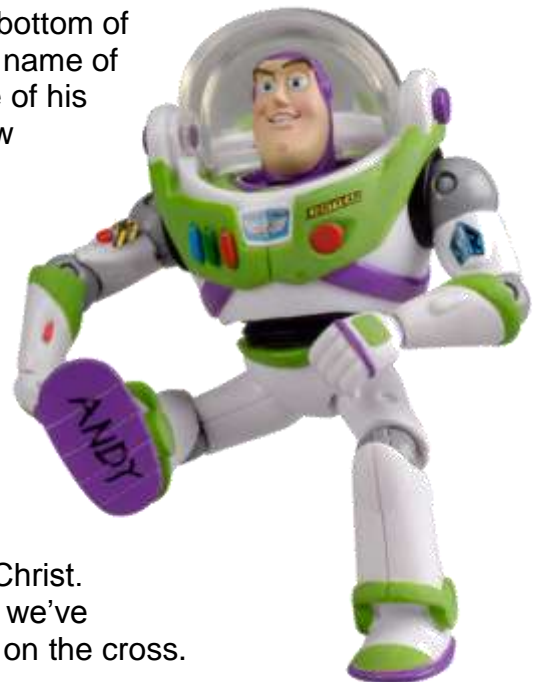
Early in the movie, Woody shouts, "You're not a space ranger! You're an action figure – a child's plaything."

Only after failing to fly, does Buzz realize the truth of Woody's statement. Grief-stricken and disillusioned, Buzz hangs his head in resignation, declaring, "I'm just a stupid, little, insignificant toy."

Woody later seeks to comfort his friend by underscoring the love of the boy who owns them both.

"You must not be thinking clearly," he said, "Look, over in that house. There's a kid who thinks you're the greatest, and it's not because you're a space ranger; it's because you're his."

As Buzz lifts his foot, he sees a label affixed to the bottom of his little shoe. There, in black permanent ink, is the name of the little boy to whom he belongs. Seeing the name of his owner, Buzz breaks into a smile and takes on a new determination.



The lesson for us?

Oftentimes, we mistakenly get our sense of self-worth from our place in life. We look at our careers, our societal status, accomplishments, and when we don't see the great things we may have once imagined for ourselves, we become discouraged.

But as Christians, we're branded with the name of Christ. Our value is determined not by who we are or what we've accomplished, but by the price that was paid for us on the cross.

We are *His*, and that's really all that matters.

As I remind associates in various meetings: You are a child of the King. You are made in His image. You are involved in a great mission, and you ought to feel good about that!

Or as the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church at Galatia: *And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you* (Galatians 3:29 NLT).

– Beecher Hunter