

When Reactors Explode

On April 26, 1986, the worst nuclear accident in history occurred at approximately 1:23 a.m. at the Chernobyl power plant near Kiev in Ukraine. An explosion ripped apart a reactor and resulted in a fire that burned for days and sent large amounts of radioactive material into the atmosphere.

Three months after the accident, Soviet officials reported that 31 people had died from burns or radiation sickness, and that more than 200 people had suffered serious injuries.

The Chernobyl reactors lacked an enclosure built in most Western reactors to prevent radioactive isotopes from escaping. The radioactive material spread to parts of what are now Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, and even carried into northern and central Europe by the wind. Experts predicted a sizable increase in cancer deaths among those who lived in the vicinity. As a result of the Chernobyl disaster and the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania in 1979, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission tightened its control of nuclear power plants in the United States.

The lesson is one of personal application. We all need to tighten our self-control and to practice the discipline that is necessary to achieve our God-given, Creator-equipped human potential. If it is true in any career or profession, it is definitely so in the work of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, for we are serving God's frail and infirm children. The Apostle Paul included lack of self-control in a list of character traits that will increase and contribute to society's breakdown.

Our culture promotes self-gratification, rather than self-control. People think they have a right to say or do whatever they want. They see no need to restrain their actions and reactions. When that happens, everyone suffers the consequences. A lack of self-control damages relationships and kills marriages. It promotes an atmosphere of violence and leads to an increase in child abuse.

A failure to let the Holy Spirit control our "reactor" can lead to disaster, and the deadly fallout affects everyone around us.

A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls. Proverbs 25:28

--Beecher Hunter