

WISDOM ON THE HIGH TRAPEZE

Father Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic priest, professor and theologian, once told a story about a family of German trapeze artists called the Flying Rodleighs, whom he greatly admired.

He and the Rodleighs became close friends, and they even let him practice with them on the trapeze.

Once, Nouwen recalled, he asked the leader of the group about flying through the air. The trapeze artist explained his craft like this: “As a flyer, I must have complete confidence in my catcher,” he said. “The public might think that I am the great star of the trapeze, but the real star is Joe, my catcher. He has to be there for me with split-second precision and grab me out of the air. I have simply to stretch out my arms and hands and wait for him to catch me.”

The worst thing a flyer can do, he continued, “is to try to catch the catcher. A flyer must fly, and a catcher must catch, and the flyer must trust, with outstretched arms, that his catcher will be there for him.”

Do you believe that when you are flying through the air in a time of crisis that God is there, waiting to catch you?



That is faith. It is not simply belief that there is a God. It is absolute trust that God cares for you and is always working for your best good.

Faith is the unshakable sense of trust that keeps us going through life’s dark and difficult valleys. All of us walk through the valley under a dark shadow at some time in our lives. There is always a way out if we allow God’s Holy Spirit to guide us. Faith is a total commitment of all we are and all we hope to be to God through faith in Jesus Christ. Faith is an assurance that the God who created us is with us in every battle we may face.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter