

*If you are seeking the truth, is better than a lie detector. It encourages a man to be expansive, even reckless, while lie detectors are only a challenge to tell lies successfully-* Graham Greene

Oh, the last thing I want to do is talk about Donald Trump yet again. I was browsing around the net for great quotes on a reckless life. The Donald was a part of many of them. People seem fascinated with The Donald. I quoted a paragraph from my first chapter about Donald on Facebook. I had to scroll down the reactions. The consensus is that he is reckless, stupid, and an idiot. Again, I ask the question: can an idiot become president and a successful business man? People were saying a resounding yes!

It seems that within the same breath many of those people have posted that a failure, loser, and idiot couldn't beat their way out of a wet paper bag. Far too many humans have played the victim card. They say that the reason they are lazy or unsuccessful is because of depression. "Oh, we are smart" they cry out "we only appear lazy because we were victims." Somehow in the depths of human ingenuity, we have decided that smart, victim, and lazy go together. Success is forged through stupidity and reckless abandon.

I love the quote by Graham Greene above. The truth is hard. The truth costs you. People think that they are smart without measure. These days the truth is that I am right because I say so. That is too easy. What if you're wrong? The problem is that this generation believes in itself far too much. That philosophy seems good. Yet, underestimating other people is bad. Underestimating your ignorance is bad too. We never really know enough about anything.

In the past I was told I was wrong by my parents and authority figures. Yet, they never implored me to quit trying. I was encouraged to go out and find the truth. These days we don't feel the need to go find it. We believe we are the truth while sitting on the couch. In history, truth

seekers did so by creating expeditions. They built libraries. They held forums of philosophy. Men and women fought for rights in marches and protests. In all of these things came with struggles, fights, and shocking results. Nothing comes that easy. Just ask flat earth believers or those who insisted we could not break the sound barrier. Nothing is learned without disappointment and enlightenment. Those two things don't come without a fight.

I have noticed that people sit now. They don't seek the truth anymore. They have been reduced to arm chair quarterbacks. People just criticize the game of life without ever playing it. For better or worse, the game of life must be played with reckless abandon. Wars were never fought or won without a reckless nature. Inventions are born through failure and ridiculous ideas. That's how success has been built throughout history. Reckless ideas pursued by reckless abandon.

Imagine the first cave people (Politically correct). What if they stayed in the cave? What if they just ate grass and waited for life to come in? What would humanity have looked like as the years past? Instead, people have ventured out into the next field, mountain, and continent. These adventurous, reckless, out of the box thinkers pursued what they did not know, see, or understand. Were fortunate early human-kind did not prefer the couch. Their reckless ideas have made life better.

The problem is that we think too much. It's the perfect storm to be an arm chair quarterback. People have so much information at their disposal. It's safe. Yet, without experience, we know nothing. I know pastors that came out of good clean Christian homes. They went straight into university. At 28 they came out smiling with a master's degree. Weeks later

they are giving advice on rape, cheating, drinking, and all other forms of sin. Yet, they have never once smelled, tasted, or lived in sin. How would they know? How could they council?

God sent Jesus from the perfect heaven into the sinful world. He lived in it for around 33 years. People decided (in their wisdom) that he was the devil. He was sin. Why? It's because the reckless nature of God made himself into a man and lived within humanity. He associated with sinful people. For a holy God, how crazy was that? To the accusers, Jesus looked like the company he kept. I feel that God needed to walk a mile in human shoes so that he gained the right to know sin. People argue whether Jesus sinned or not. I think they missed the point. You can never say Jesus did not know what sin smelled like. We have a deeper God solely because he lived within a sinful world.

They say that we are made in Gods image. The reason cave people left the cave is because they are like God. A reckless life produces an abundant life. Deep down we know it's the truth. God chose reckless actions to create an association with people. Cave people ventured out with reckless abandon to associate with the world. Those actions by people and God create knowledge, understanding through a recklessly adventurous life.

We crave the reckless life. The Webster's dictionary says that reckless is defined as "unthinking boldness." That boldness crossed the sea. It made a car and went to the moon. Did we have all the answers? No, that is humanity. So many people just believe that God knows it all and lives in a perfect bubble. So, what is it like to know humanity, Satan, fallen angels, and the sin question? God decided to taste life outside his perfect bubble. To know how a fallen world felt. It's an insane notion. Gods thinking was bold. He dared to know humanity better and deeper. That was reckless to a holy God.

So, we imitate the way God does things. Most people spend their time doing two things. One is finding ways to get to where they want to go. The second is how to get out of the messes they made. I believe that this life is better served by tasting the good and the bad. I feel that Jack on the Titanic is the best example. He won his ticket in a game of chance. Then he found himself dining with the rich and having an affair on a cruise ship. By chance? Then Jack is staring his lover in the face as he lets her go. He dies in the depths of the cold Atlantic Ocean while she is saved. Jack took the good and bad as it came. He lived and died with unthinking boldness. Honestly, he tasted how to live and die well.

We see someone across the room, and instantaneously, it's like a light switch turns on. We begin to love instantly. Without explanation, suddenly, the room is a whole lot brighter. Then comes the choice: talk to them, pass a note, or do nothing? If you can feel love in just a glance then it's worth the risk. In many ways it's reckless to do nothing. A normal life turned upside down by a look. Humans live for moments like those. How many times do couples meet by chance? Basically, all the time. I feel we are drawn to the reckless life. We were born to seek the reckless adventure. It's so God-like.

People crave reckless love stories. We dream of seeing ourselves as the hero or the rescued. Some say that Jesus is our savior. They believe he gave his life by his love for us all. We do it too. A life is changed by our love for them. It's who we are. A life can be good. What makes it good? It's the story. What will we do? Who will we love? What chances will we take? Hide in a cave waiting for rescue? Very few of us do that. We all know that deep down inside the good life means we have to venture out and be unthinking boldness. That reckless nature is woven into creation.

Then there is good and evil. Why must it be that way? I describe them as summer and winter. People tend to hate one or the other: hot or cold. There is rarely middle ground. Cold craves heat. Heat wishes for shade. Yet, we love and hate them both. A good life is warm and fun. A bad life is cold and miserable. We crave reckless solutions for the good and bad times. Usually at our own expense. Many people separate good and evil. Is it because we crave one and despise the other? Aren't we always seeking good solutions to bad situations? There is a little good and evil within all of us.

I feel that drugs are popular because they produce fun moments. They also spare sadness for a time. An armchair quarterback is watching the game, not playing the game. They just don't fully know. Drugs or a couch can be addictive. Just spare knowing the truth about life. Sparing the pain of the game. That is not how humanity rolls. The danger of the sea made human-kind travel farther. That seems stupid. Yet, the reckless nature demanded it. We have no choice.

That's why I don't like drugs. I don't tend to go to the bar. To sit and live in the moment free of pain seems so anti-productive. As I deliver mail, I am beginning to find more and more people at home smoking pot. It's legal in my country. If your stoned during the weekday then why are you here? Do you work? Do you venture out in reckless abandon to make the world a better place? If this trend continues, I wonder where the discoveries, scientists, adventurers, and dreamers will come from? I doubt it will be the from the ones on the couch criticizing those who do.

I posted a picture of a little boy complaining that he won the race, but he only received a participation medal. The boy then told his dad that he will consider the reward the next time he trains. People reacted on social media in many different ways. Some agreed with the award and

others with the boy. One bright man said that winning and losing is not the focus. Only Jesus is. Did Jesus think that way? Far too often we train a child to focus on Jesus and ignore life. The ability to move a mountain is due to knowing you can. That comes from enduring life's mountains. Jesus never said he would move the mountain for us. Faith is grown by a reckless life. A life trying to move mountains. A life finding a reckless way to win gold.

Of course, there are those that would disagree. They say that Jesus is everything. What they miss is that Jesus is beside us. The Spirit is within us. Go goes before us. We are to walk with Jesus. Listen to the Spirit within us. Also, we have the ability to see what God is doing. Sometimes a reckless spiritual life is stepping into the darkness. Going to places we shouldn't. Daring to be brave and adventurous. Running the race of life to win.

There are also those who say *stay in the cave and be safe*. I have a friend who stayed in his parent's basement for 8 years after a divorce. Divorce wrecked his faith in people. Recently, I have heard that his new wife is hell. Why? Are people that bad? Should he have stayed in the basement where it's safe? I feel my friend blew it when he protected his heart. He became blind to what pain and failure can achieve. He waited for the safe bet. Nothing is safe as he is finding out.

This is a great illustration. Paul in the Bible makes a famous statement saying "*For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.*" Then he goes on to say God seems to bless him all the more and that made him feel guilty. I think Paul is driving at the heart of good and evil. The grind to find middle ground is frustrating. It's no good to hide and try to remain good. It's crazy to pursue evil. Yet, in the middle, is understanding. That understanding comes from experiencing a reckless life.

I want to touch on the “Jesus is everything” part. There are those who walk around saying All you need is Jesus. There are others who walk around claiming we don’t need oil. I have often thought both are from the same breed. It’s easy to say all you need is...? Yet, why? Why is Jesus needed? It’s because he is good and evil is bad. We need a solution to oil. Saying and doing are different. I need people to find reckless solutions to evil. To climate problems. Armchair quarterbacks and couch potatoes “say” a lot. Like God leaving heaven, we need people to venture out recklessly to solve a troubled world.

People are people. It’s built into our nature to desire the reckless life. At times, we will find it. It’s looking for us too. They say that Satan is a roaming lion for a reason. Tough times seem to seek us out once in a while. It’s good to embrace recklessness. We can’t hold a tiger by the tail for long. Yet, we need the reckless life. It fuels imagination and ingenuity. If we can’t pass the mountain then we must find a way to go around, over, or (heaven forbid) through it. Trouble with people is a mountain. We seem to get stuck on surpassing big things.

Certainly, we could find a way through. There is a spiral train tunnel in Yoho national park, Canada. It was made to turn the train around. I am sure the original plan was deemed nuts. Yet, when they cut the ribbon to open it there were probably many shouts of praise and applause. Two turns almost a kilometer long inside a mountain. What were they thinking? There is a drive within us to overachieve. To find a way. Sometimes even recklessly if needed.

Many so called do gooders say that corporations are bad. Yet, we love McDonalds. Do we know it was started by one man’s idea? His vision changed the fast food industry forever. Think about it. A company does not exist on its own. It works because people are the company. We forget that sometimes. A marriage works because people are in it. I wonder if some miss that

when they refuse to marry. They say marriage or big business is bad. The reckless life is people. People are good, bad, crazy, sane, passive, lame, and adventurous. Put that into companies and relationships and you get a reckless life. How can a relationship function if opposites attract? A company of 50,000 employee's would be even worse. Yet, we need the good and bad thrown into a relationship for it to thrive. I know it seems odd.

What it means is that the pursuit of the reckless life intersects with all types of people. How will we survive when we add their character to ours? I love many types of people. Yet, I have my favorites. Some people just rub me the wrong way for no good reason. We can't like them all. I hear it all the time. I know a guy who believes that I read people wrong. He does not like some of my friends. Yet, I like them. They are my friends. Why does he care? We all treat people by different scales. It's pretty hard to like everything about someone. You must live with the good and bad.

I know my wife thinks some of my adventures are reckless. I feel she does reckless things too. In the end, we both live life on the edge. We have our own version of reckless. Would I climb death defying cliffs or sky dive? I doubt it, but I would public speak. Both are equally terrifying and reckless in their own way. My wife would agree.

Why have that reckless relationship? We just like it? Why criticize a seemingly bad and reckless relationship? We just do. Why? Humans seem so neurotic. It comes back to Forest Gump saying "stupid is what stupid does." We have our own version of stupid to others. We all want perfect friendships. It's the human pastime to judge others. It's how we know what works, or what we want in a friend. Maybe it just comes down to a reckless attraction.



Are we attracted to danger? Why speed? Why smoke weed or party too hard? Maybe, we love it. The Bible is constructed by life examples. That's how God chose to teach. Sampson was given great power but little wisdom. Solomon received wisdom but little power. The main point in the Bible is what will you do with what is given? Attraction to good and evil has always been there. What we do with it is the point.

I feel that reckless and the hot mess are attracted to each other. Many of the people we adore in the movies, books, and entertainment industry are both of those things. We are attracted to their lives. The word reckless has been given a bad name. We need a portion of reckless abandon in our lives. Sometimes that comes in the form of a relationship. For better or worse we are attracted to reckless relationships.

With that said, let's explore attraction. There are relationships that seem stupid. In any sense of the word "stupid", a relationship only looks that way to the observer. In a relationship, two lovers don't stay because it's stupid. They stay because of attraction. They love the other person. Even if it's troublesome and scary they love the fun and reckless nature of it. Think of a smiling face in the light of a new relationship. It's magical, intoxicating, and reckless. Is it stupid? No, it's why we were attracted to a great many things. Let's talk about that.