

Nuts and Bolts

I am convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that there are nuts and bolts of life. Nice people are generally treated well. Bad things happen to bad people. We all have stories of the contrary. People could list 20 examples and say that I'm wrong. Yet, good things happening to nice people go unreported. I think that there are other types of nuts-and-bolts examples. Why do certain countries have the leader they chose? Does that leader reflect the people? I think it does. Why do dogs and their owner seem to have the same character traits. The nuts and bolts of this world are a common thread that binds us as humans and creation together.

I keep hearing over and over that good people live longer. The other day my son told me to let my brain settle down. I got a cramp in my calf while running and I was still limping long afterwards. He told me that the calf is not hurt but my mind is freaking out to protect it. My brain needed to settle down. If you think about it that makes so much sense. They say that stress kills. That sport is 90% mental. Why do some positive people heal quicker? Why do complainers usually fail. It's the nuts and bolts of living. How is your mind doing?

This Covid thing appears to be re-arranging our nuts and bolts. Yet, is it really? What if we have forgotten what works? How should life really work? I am wondering if consumerism and the lack of strife in our lives these days has softened us. It's helped us forget the nuts and bolts in life. Why did fear take people down so easily during this pandemic? All the unrealistic answers and solutions. Let's face it, nothing has worked. Yet, in the last few months we have come across a new strain. It's changed the game once again. Is it possible the nuts and bolts of life knew the answer to a pandemic all along?

What does God have to say? If you have never read Ecclesiastics of the Bible, I recommend it. This book is a literary gem. It has won acclaim from non-religious circles for its literature style and wisdom. There are two points in this book. One is that Solomon was possibly the richest king in history. The point is made that he had everything you could ever own. The second point is that these king points out that owning everything does not bring happiness or wisdom. Solomon states that there is a time for everything. Wealth can't stop the nuts and bolts of life from happening. I think God allowed this pandemic to show humans that the basics in life are just as important as wealth. I think humans have forgotten that.

What if getting sick was the answer all along. In the beginning of this pandemic, we were told that the loss of workers due to sickness would be significant. Things were about to change. Yet, within that narrative a new idea emerged. What if we could flatten the curve and stop the sickness? Could we avoid the nuts and bolts of life on earth? Sickness and death are part of the cycle. Then fear crept in? What if we died! What if we lose it all! Then panic set in and toilet paper ran for the hills trying to save itself.

When I was a little boy there was this thing called a chicken pox party. Parents would let their sick child play with other kids so that they too got the chicken pox. I know horrifying right? Yet, for centuries that's how humans survive. We get sick, then immune, and we survive as a species. That's the nuts and bolts of it. Now many of us these days are getting sick from a new form of Covid. It's totally possible that the vaccine helped us make this new strain a cold. I get it. I see people treating this new wave as a cold and not the 4th coming of death! People are fighting through and doing life in-between it.

Look, I know that the first go round with the beer bug had its unknowns. Yet, our fathers wouldn't have panicked like we did. They knew the drill. The nuts and bolts say don't

panic. It says to trust what has worked: our ammine system (it's been around a few years). Wash your hands helps. Getting sick helps. There is a ton of things under the sun that help fight stress, pandemics, and many other things. Maybe Solomon was right. There is a time for everything. That also means that time is needed. How will things work out when we don't have all the answers? Time will tell: right? The lesson learned in the last two years is to trust in the nuts and bolts. Life knows how to work this out. How do I know? It always has before, why would now be any different.