

## **Living Without Swerving**

Danger of swerving

- Car – white line – wife
- Tight rope walking

1 Timothy 1:3-7

History of false teachings

- Possibly Gnosticism
- Self-reliance
- Hypocrisy
- Do we have false teaching today?

## **How do you live a life without swerving?**

Has to be Spirit-worked changes in our life

Living by the stewardship from God...

- Order, the way God designed it to work, His design for Christian living
- Not in our own strength, what we can do, who we are, or how much we know
- How did God plan for things to be/work?
- Center of God's will

By faith...

- Assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1)
- Our Christian life is one of faith
- Not everything can be touched or even completely explained

Aim of our charge is love...

- Charity, agape love = expects nothing in return
- Fulfills the law (Romans 13:10, Matthew 22:37)
- Must live out this love around us

This love is not just an ordinary love, but one that comes from ... (OPPOSITE OF FALSE TEACHING)

Pure heart... (opposite = one filled with sinful desires)

- Clean, clear
- Thoughts or feelings (mind)
- Pure, holy, undefiled
- Our motive for loving (not what we can get out of it)

Good conscience...(opposite = one laden with guilt)

- Moral conscience (become aware; awaken (consciousness); co-perception (God revealing))
- Can't become seared (1 Timothy 4:2) – no longer does wrong seem wrong
- When conviction comes, what do you do with it?

- Exercise it daily – Acts 24:6 (reflection, listening, acting)

Sincere faith...(opposite = pretense and hypocrisy)

- Why do we have faith in God? Is it for our benefit?
- Living what you say you believe
- This is the action part – false Christianity is just saying it and not living it

What does unswerving living look like? Romans 12:9-21

The aim of our charge is central to our Christian life. Is our aim in the right direction or is there dangerous swerving in what we believe and the way we live it out?

Philippe Petit was first inspired to attempt what he called his "coup" on the Twin Towers while he sat in his dentist's office in Paris in 1968. In a magazine, he came upon an article about the as-yet-unconstructed buildings, along with an illustration of the model. He became obsessed with the towers, collecting articles on them whenever possible.

The 'artistic crime of the century' took six years of planning, during which Petit learned everything he could about the buildings, taking into account such problems as the swaying of the towers because of wind, and how to rig the steel cable across the 140-foot (43 m) gap between the towers (at a height of 1,368 ft (417.0 m)). He traveled to New York on several occasions to make first-hand observations. Since the towers were still under construction, Philippe and a NY-based photographer went up in a helicopter to make aerial photographs of the WTC.<sup>[2]</sup>

Petit sneaked into the towers several times, hiding on the roof and other areas in the unfinished towers, in order to get a sense of what type of security measures were in place. Using his own observations and photographs, Petit was able to make a scale model of the towers to help him design the rigging he needed to prepare for the wirewalk. He made fake identification cards for himself and his collaborators (claiming that they were contractors who were installing an electrified fence on the roof) to gain access to the towers. Prior to this, to make it easier to get into the buildings, Petit carefully observed the clothes worn by construction workers and the kinds of tools they carried. He also took note of the clothing of businessmen so that he could blend in with them when he tried to enter the buildings. He observed what time the workers arrived and left, so he could determine when he would have roof access. As the target date of his "coup" approached, he claimed to be a journalist with a French architecture magazine so that he could gain permission to interview the workers on the roof. The Port Authority allowed Petit to conduct the interviews, which he used as a pretext to make more observations. He was once caught by a police officer on the roof, and his hopes to do the high wire walk were dampened, but he eventually regained the confidence to proceed.

On the night of August 6, 1974, Petit and his crew were able to ride in a freight elevator to the 104th floor with their equipment, and to store this equipment just nineteen steps from the roof. In order to pass the cable across the void, Petit and his crew had settled on using a bow and arrow. They first shot across a fishing line, and then passed larger and larger ropes across the space between the towers until they were able to pass the 450-pound steel cable across. Two cavalettis (guy lines) anchored to other points on the roof were used to stabilize the cable and keep the swaying of the wire to a minimum.<sup>[2]</sup> For the first time in the history of the Twin Towers, they were joined.

**[edit] Walking**

On August 7, 1974, shortly after 7:15 a.m., Petit stepped off the South Tower and onto his 3/4" 6×19 IWRC (independent wire rope core <sup>[5]</sup>) steel cable. He walked the wire for 45 minutes, making eight crossings between the towers, a quarter mile above the sidewalks of Manhattan. In addition to walking, he sat on the wire, gave knee salutes and, while lying on the wire, spoke with a gull circling above his head.

As soon as Philippe Petit was observed by witnesses on the ground, the Port Authority Police Department dispatched officers to the roof to take him into custody. One of the officers, Sgt. Charles Daniels, later reported his experience:

I observed the tightrope 'dancer'—because you couldn't call him a 'walker'—approximately halfway between the two towers. And upon seeing us he started to smile and laugh and he started going into a dancing routine on the high wire....And when he got to the building we asked him to get off the high wire but instead he turned around and ran back out into the middle....He was bouncing up and down. His feet were actually leaving the wire and then he would resettle back on the wire again....Unbelievable really....[E]verybody was spellbound in the watching of it.<sup>[6]</sup>

Petit was warned by his friend on the South Tower that a police helicopter would come to pick him off the wire unless he got off. Rain had begun to fall, and Petit decided he had taken enough risks, so he decided to give himself up to the police waiting for him on the South Tower. He was arrested once he stepped off the wire. Provoked by his taunting behaviour while on the wire, police handcuffed him behind his back and roughly pushed him down a flight of stairs. This he later described as the most dangerous part of the stunt.<sup>[7]</sup>

His audacious high wire performance made headlines around the world. When asked why he did the stunt, Petit would say "When I see three oranges, I juggle; when I see two towers, I walk."