

## *TEMPTING FATE?*

In February, 2004, Dessi Espana, a 32-year-old circus performer, fell to her death in St. Paul, MN, during a Barnum & Bailey show. She had been hanging upside down twirling on some chiffon scarves using neither a harness nor a safety yet, which undoubtedly added to the entertainment value of her act. But she paid a high price. One of the scarves came loose, and she plunged 30 feet to the concrete floor and died a few hours later. A sign outside read: “Tempting Fate Daily.”

Upon Mrs. Espana’s fall, clowns immediately emerged to distract the audience while emergency medical personnel tended to the injured performer. Some circus-goers were outraged because the ringmaster had everything continue as though nothing had happened. But circus spokeswoman Alexis Copeland gave the famous saying, “The show must go on.”

Regardless of what you think about performing without a safety net or continuing a show after a performer has been seriously injured, I want you to focus on the eternal, spiritual consequences of going through life without a spiritual safety net. It is possible, in theory at least, to walk tightropes, swing on the trapeze, and perform other dangerous stunts successfully without ever needing a net (not likely, perhaps, but at least theoretically possible). But living an entire lifetime free from sin is not just unlikely – Scripture tells us in unmistakable terms, it simply won’t happen. King Solomon correctly observed that “there is no one who does not sin” (1 Kings 8:46). That statement is no less true about 3000 years later!

No matter how good we think we are, all of us fall. All of us need a safety net. Without a safety net, we will most assuredly die! “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23a). The only safety net that will save us from eternal death is Jesus Christ. “The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23b). Not using that safety net isn’t “tempting fate.” It’s guaranteeing disaster.

Understand this, too. Even if you die because you didn't use a safety net, "the show will go on." The world will not stop turning because you die lost! Christians who love you will grieve. But life will go on. God will continue to save those who willingly come to Him through Christ. The safety net will be there for all who choose to use it. But the time to get that net in place is before the scarf comes loose, not after.

Do you need to confess Christ and be immersed into Him right now?