

## Instructions are for Idiots

Such is the battle cry of hundreds of stout hearted and overly brave souls who will tackle almost any home improvement project under the sun with the only reference to the included instructions for said project being when the paper upon which these instructions are printed either is used for a paint swab test, grease rag, or excelsior padding for left over parts. Not to be dissuaded by set backs caused by this action, these feckless and intrepid “home improvement warriors” will make continual trips back and forth to the hardware store for unneeded parts which they feel will make the project upon which they are laboring less labor intensive. There will be files, pocket knives, sand paper and rasps to shave off some edges on parts which were, according to the now misplaced instructions, designed to “fit snugly” for the safety of the assembly in question had these instructions been followed. Yet, our struggler against life’s injustices relentlessly plods on, putting new a definition to the words ingenious, creativity, and inspired. When he is finished with the project, through no fault of his own, it works....Not the way it was designed to do, however. This was all for the failure to read and follow the instructions, which were put there for good reason.

The other day, I tackled what should have been a ten minute job....Replacing a burned out brake light on our car. I removed the screws which held in the light assembly which needed to be removed before removing the burned out light. The whole assembly was now loose. I wiggled and wiggled and wiggled the assembly. I pulled on the assembly and wiggled as I was pulling. It only wiggled but did not come out.

“I need a big screwdriver to pry it out” I thought. With prying implement in a hand which was quivering with anticipation, in my mind’s eye I saw the flash of words of warning appear in front of me....”Check the instruction manual, idiot” The sign said.

Lo and behold, I needed to butt out the assembly with the heel of my hand towards the outside of the car. It was held in my two “spires” of plastic which would have broken off and ruined the whole assembly, had I continued in the course in which I was traveling. The instructions apparently are for idiots like me who think they know what they are doing. Thankfully, there was the guiding and protective hand of God who intervened and prevented a disastrous source of unneeded marital friction.

On a more serious note, there are books written on this subject called The Darwin Awards. They are “bestowed upon individuals who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it in a spectacularly stupid manner.” Failure to follow written or oral instructions can prove fatal. God expects His followers to be obedient to His Words without regard to the objections and resistance of God’s enemies who emanate from Satan. While not reading the instructions on a product purchased from a hardware store, or replacing a burned out tail light, may cause grave consternation and frustration, failure to heed safety instructions can be fatal as the Darwin awards testify. Failure to heed God’s Instructions can have Eternal consequences.

I have heard that the word BIBLE is an acronym for the words Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. If this is accurate, the Bible is then God’s instructions for how to live our lives. We might be able to “bluff” a home improvement project without the use of instructions, because the cost of failure on the project is only embarrassment when the project does not work. When the Biblical instructions and warnings go unheeded we must answer to God Who will wonder why we have not paid attention to His admonitions to follow the path He has laid out because of His Love for us. Following His out lined path opens the doorway to a more abundant life in Him.

Spiritual idiots that we are, mankind has so far seemed to get himself sucked into not only detrimental sins, but harmful ideologies, beliefs, and political stands which have been responsible for the deaths of countless millions of innocent victims in such things as Pol Pot in Cambodia, Stalin in Katyn Wood, the Holocaust, Alfredo Astiz in Argentina, the World Trade Center, and Sadam Hussein in Iraq. The protection and guidance of the Lord Jesus Christ will, if we follow His Instructions, guide us through life. God loves us and gave us not only the gift of Jesus to save us, but also the gift of His Word, the Bible, to instruct us in life’s trials and tribulations. We hopefully will keep His Love for us in our hearts and minds as we travel down the winding pathway of life as we are focused on Him as He leads and instructs us through His Word.

Northcutt, Wendy; *The Darwin Awards, Survival of the Fittest*; Dutton pg2, Darwin awards Defined

Hall, Allan *The Encyclopedia of True Crime* pp 199-256 (bibliographic reference)