

**Essay from the bald pastor
#89 - The Flying Man -**

An American high-wire artist, Nik Wallenda, became the first person to high-wire walk across a Grand Canyon area gorge in Arizona without wearing a safety tether on June 23, 2013. He is a seven-generation member of The Flying Wallendas, a circus and stunt performer family, known for doing high-wire acts without a safety net. He successfully traversed 1400 feet tightrope at 1500 feet high above the Little Colorado River in 22minutes 54 seconds while it was being broadcasted live on TV. He had just set another world record a year before by crossing Niagara Falls without a safety tether.

Despite these extreme performances, however, he is neither a daredevil nor a charlatan. Nik Wallenda is rather a calm 34 year-old father of three. With a strong belief in athletic abilities, he trains for six hours every day. Weekly, he does ten hours of weight training and five hours of cardio exercises. For his attempt at Niagara Falls, he spent over a year convincing both the U.S. and Canadian government to give him the permission, for tightrope walking had been banned at the site since 1896. As for his Grand Canyon endeavor, it took four years to make it happen. Clearly, he is a person who is rational and is willing to make steady efforts no matter what the circumstance is.

He is also known for being a devout Christian. As he remarked that faith in God is the most important and that he is always praying, he is spotted praying before and during his acts in the TV broadcast. “The Flying Man” is in fact quite down-to earth. The Bible warns as the following:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

I saw in Nik Wallenda’s way of life a role-model believer who possesses a peaceful and prudent quality and loves God, others, and the self.

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