

BELIEVE

THE GIRAFFE AND THE BUMBLEBEE

When we look at nature around us, especially in the animal kingdom, there are countless lessons to be learned that can certainly apply to our lives as humans. One clear example of this is comparing a giraffe to a bumblebee. First, the giraffe is the tallest animal on the face of the earth today. Adult males grow to be somewhere between 18 and 20 feet tall, females tend to be between 15 and 16 feet tall. Adult giraffes' legs are usually about six feet long, roughly the same height as the average man. Research has shown that giraffes can be pinned in by digging a ditch six feet wide by six feet deep around the perimeter of their territory. In other words, a tall fence does not have to be built to keep them confined. Rather a ditch about the same width and depth of their legs will do the job. They won't try to cross this barrier. By comparison, if an adult human has legs that are approximately three feet long, imagine building a ditch three feet deep and three feet wide to keep humans pinned in. Obviously, with minimum effort, we would just hop over that ditch and be on our merry way! Ironically, the giraffe, the tallest creature on earth, allows itself to be contained and controlled by its own fear and will not overcome obstacles in the way that could easily be conquered. The giraffe's limits are manifested in its mind.

By contrast, consider the bumblebee. Scientists have proven over and over that a bumblebee cannot fly! Studies show that a bumblebee's body is too heavy and is too round to be aerodynamically suitable for flying. Likewise, a bumblebee's wings are too short and too fragile to support the bee's weight. Scientists have proven many times that bumblebees can't fly. Well... YOU TELL A BUMBLEBEE THAT!! In spite of its physical limitations and scientific evidence, a bumblebee will defy the odds every day of its life. Furthermore, think of what happens when a bumblebee flies into a room filled with people. Humans tend to panic, and most will move quickly out of its way. Imagine that! Humans are at the "top of the food chain," yet when a small creature that we are 1,000 times larger than buzzes into the room, humans scatter to get out of its way! Unlike the giraffe, the bumblebee does not allow itself to be restricted by fear or doubt. It makes the most of its physical and mental talents each day. What a wonderful example of believing in ourselves and making the most of our abilities!

1. What life lessons can you learn from the bumblebee?
2. Describe a time when you behaved like a giraffe, and a time you were like a bumblebee.
3. Do you know people who have a lot of talent but don't take advantage of it? Do you know people who don't have as much talent, but they refuse to be held back and end up accomplishing more than those who are more talented?
4. Which of these two do you admire most? Why?
5. What can you do to make the most of your talents?
6. What can you do to help this team become like a swarm of bumblebees?

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."