

Some of our readers have heard of the evidence I am able to offer in support of the claim that angels are real. Here is Exhibit A: I still have drivers license. I am not the world's most attentive driver, not because I don't want to be, but it just seems that other parts of my brain take over while it should be focused on driving. (This is a part of my life which I do not offer as an example of "do as I do"!...at least not unless you know your guardian angel *really* well,)

One of the ideas that takes over my brain happens at stop signs. When there is someone in the car behind me and I see the driver or passenger in the rear view mirror, sometimes I notice people laughing or singing. I wonder, what brought her such a moment of delight? But, sometimes I see people with a blank look...not quite hopeless, but certainly not happy. The phrase that always comes to my mind is "lives of quiet desperation." (I am sure this quote comes from some famous poet, but I can't place it. You can Google it, if you like and report back.) I think,,,he is so quiet on the outside, but he is so desperate on the inside. I wish I could talk to him and find out what is going on. Has she just had a fight with a husband? Did he just lose a job? Are her kids driving her crazy today? Is he so lonely he could cry? Is she stuck in the stage of wondering why she is on this earth at all?

If I could talk to these people, these quietly desperate people, I hope that I would tell them something like this. A feeling of desperation is not necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes we need to get to a point of desperation before we finally decide to act. We get so sick that we finally go to the doctor. Or, our budget is so out of alignment that we finally get some financial counseling. And you can add your own examples here. The point is, it is not the state of desperation which is the problem, usually. There certainly can be times when desperate feelings are a problem...when they are signs of depression or other mental health concerns. But, "healthy desperation" can be a motivator. The problem is in being "quiet" about it. Our refusal to seek help...to talk to someone about how we feel...leading a life of "quiet desperation" ..that is the problem. So, go talk to someone who can help you work through the problem that brings you to feeling desperate. There is hope, and there are people or books or songs which will help you move from desperation to hope. That is one thing I would say to the people in my rear view mirror.

But, I feel I should say more, that there needs to be something more to leave them with before we pull away from the stop light. If you could speak through the glass and steel and reach out to the person in the rear view mirror, that person looking so alone and lost in despair, what would you say?

I think I would also tell them....

Shalom,
Bill