

Personal Reflection – May 25, 2023

Pray for Doubt

I am in the midst of reading Jack Bergstrand's 2022 book *Christianity without Dogma*. Wow! He tells his personal story and invites us to consider a practical way to freedom and authenticity 'with clarity and without trauma.'

I naturally reviewed my own hope to see Dialogue Education as an ongoing research agenda, where each participant 'prays for doubt' (one of my favorite axioms) and recognizes that each event refreshes and recreates the 'practices and principles' to serve a unique group of learners.

Bergstrand quotes Jim Collins' 2011 book *Good to Great* that offers *five stages of decline*:

1. Hubris, born of success
2. Undisciplined pursuit of more
3. Denial of risk and peril
4. Grasping for salvation
5. Capitulation to irrelevance or death

And, I ask myself: Where and when do I allow hubris in? What's my 'more'? When have I recently denied risk and peril? What looks like 'grasping for salvation'? Where and when have I recently capitulated?

Wow! Good, tough questions!

--Jane Vella