

Tim Keller Story

Tim Keller, the American Christian leader and Bible scholar, tells this story about a friend of his who lived out in a city in the U.S. mid-West.

Keller narrates that every time he went to visit this friend of his out in the mid-West, the man would pick him up from the Airport and, on their way from the Airport, Keller would ask him to put on his seat-belt, telling the guy about all the statistics of how seat-belts saved lives, and so on. This friend of his, however, would mutter some excuse or other, and not put on his seat belt. This went on for some time.

On one occasion, however, much to Keller's pleasant surprise, when his friend picked him up from the Airport, he quickly strapped on his seat belt. When Keller saw this he was delighted and he asked his friend what had made him change his mind about using the seat belt.

His friend then sheepishly told him that a few days earlier he had paid a visit to a good friend of his in the hospital who had been involved in a motor vehicle accident. Because this man had not been wearing his seat belt, he had gone through the windscreen and had to have 100 stitches to his face. Staring at his friend's heavily bandaged face in that hospital bed, Keller's friend finally understood what wearing a seat-belt was all about, and he changed his mind about the importance of wearing seat-belts.

Keller's friend, you see, knew about seat belts, but the truth is, he had never truly understood seat belts until he saw his friend's heavily bandaged face in that hospital bed.