

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### GOD GIVEN GIFTS!

### How can you confuse “hubris” with “humility”?



By Stephen L. Bakke  August 23, 2014

#### *Here's what provoked me:*

*Today's featured "letter to editor" was all about criticizing people of faith for giving God credit for wonderful things. The writer suggests these "wonderful things" are the function of one's privileges gained by luck of birth – wealth and location. He suggests that it is "hubris" to give God credit when wealth and privilege are the real reasons. I hope I'm not the only one responding to this character's stupidity!*

#### *Here's my response:*

#### **God Given Gifts! How can you confuse “hubris” with “humility”?**

In “Survivor had great help, but it was not divine” – 8-23-14, Daniel Wolpert took exception to the “God saved my life” headline on 8-22. This referred to the Doctor who recovered from Ebola after evacuation to the U.S. from Africa. Wolpert wrote: “The privilege granted him by his skin color and place of birth ..... afforded him the best medical care the world has to offer ..... Caring for the sick is wonderful, but **it is hubris ..... to substitute God for our wealth and privilege.**”



JOHN BAZEMORE – Associated Press – Ebola victim  
Dr. Kent Brantly and his wife leave a news conference after being released from Emory University Hospital.

I believe Brantly was saying that **God gave us:**

- the talent used by scientists to develop miracle drugs.
- a prosperous America to support talented scientists and to be the “laboratory” for medical advancements.
- Dr. Brantly himself who was willing to leave his privileged status to help the sick in Africa.

Doctor Brantly made sacrifices to accomplish what Wolpert seems to desire – spreading healing benefits. **The Doctor gave God credit for giving the gifts which made it possible, which was an act of sincere humility – not claiming personal credit. Wolpert sees humility and calls it hubris.** Shame on him for attempting to deny Dr. Brantly his faith – a faith Wolpert obviously doesn't understand!