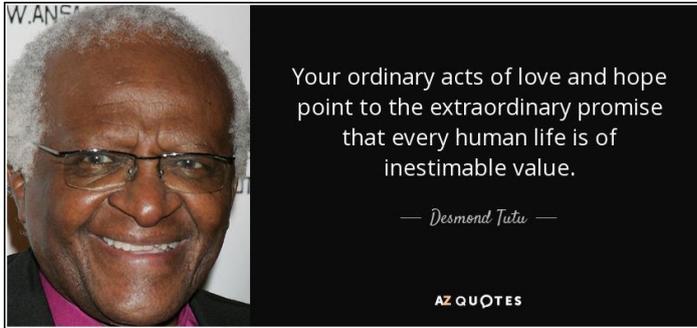


# FAITH IN THE WORLD-9



*We wish you all a peaceful  
and healthy 2021!*

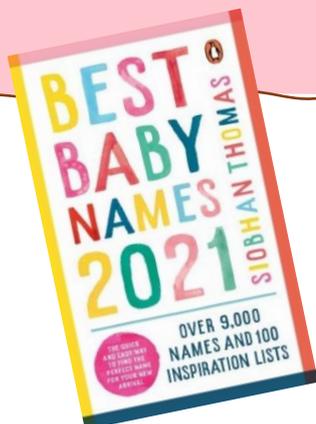


- How do you react to the two examples given, of judging others by their appearance or by name?
- Are people justified to react this way?
- What might be the effect of judging others in this way?
- How can we avoid “judging a book by its cover”?
- What practical steps can we take to achieve that?

**John 7 v 24 says this:**

***“You should not judge by outward appearance. When you judge, search for what is right and just.”***

- What is “right judgement” and what criteria should we use when making a judgement?
- Is judging someone negatively, life giving to them?



## JUDGING OTHERS

In 2009 the British Television show, “Britain’s Got Talent” auditioned a 47 year old lady. She was received, by some in the audience with laughter.....until she began to sing! It was a clear example case of someone being judged by their outward appearance, and the Herald newspaper, described Susan Boyle's story as a modern parable and a rebuke to people's tendency to judge others based on their physical appearance. Her debut studio album, “I Dreamed a Dream”, was released in November 2009 and became the UK's best-selling debut album of all time. She has gone on to perform for the Queen, and as a committed Catholic, has also sung for Pope Benedict.

You can watch Susan’s audition here:

[https://youtu.be/jca\\_p\\_3FcWA](https://youtu.be/jca_p_3FcWA)

It has been revealed in a survey of teachers, by the parenting group Bounty, that more than a third of teachers interviewed, expected pupils with certain names to be disruptive, just by looking at names on a register. It also revealed that children with a different set of names, were regarded as bright and that they would be most likely destined to go to Oxford or Cambridge universities.

Both examples make it clear that we can so easily judge someone, without really knowing them.



Research has shown that kind words of encouragement, as opposed to words of wrong judgement, can be positive for both the giver and receiver of them.

- As the word itself shows, encouragement can literally give someone the **courage** to try/ achieve something that they may not have felt possible before
- They can begin to heal past hurts
- They empower others to transform their lives
- They dissolve self-doubt
- They build self-esteem
- They promote mental well-being
- They encourage people to keep going

Desmond Tutu, said that our ordinary acts of love and hope, Maybe there is someone who needs your encouragement, point to the extraordinary promise, that every human life is of inestimable value.

1. Maybe there is someone who needs your encouragement at this time?
2. How might you show your support of them?
3. How might your "ordinary act of encouraging love and hope" offer someone the message that they are of immeasurable worth in the world?

## WORDS HAVE POWER!

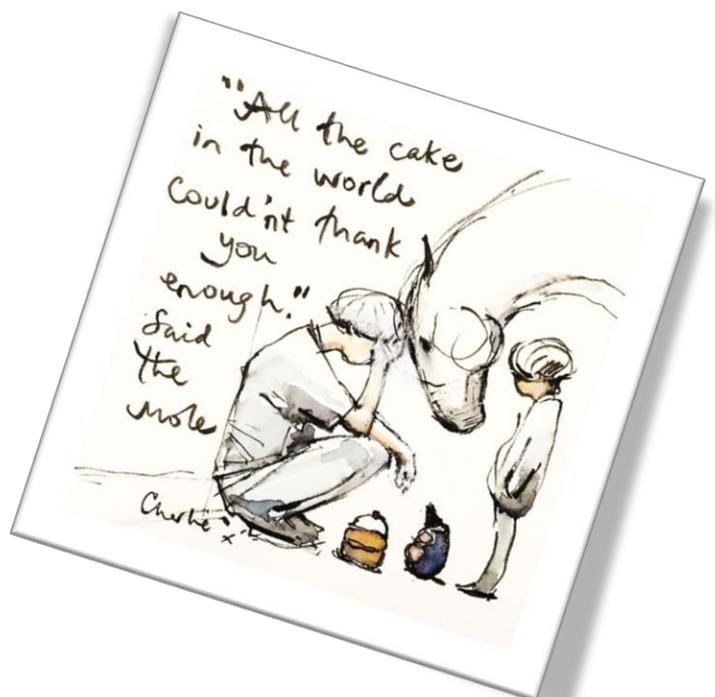
During the first lockdown last year, many people of all ages, found the book "The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse" to be especially inspiring. Written by Charlie Mackesy, the words and pictures offer a powerful reminder of the most important things in life, giving great hope for uncertain times. Charlie also did a series of paintings to thank the NHS staff and to encourage them in their vital work.

The popularity of the book shows how words can make a huge difference, to encourage others, especially in difficult situations.

In the letter that Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he urged them to encourage one another too;

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

*1 Thessalonians Chapter 5*



You can watch a short video about Charlie here:

[https://youtu.be/GjV9MX\\_LmdI](https://youtu.be/GjV9MX_LmdI)

"You Make Me Brave" a worship song with lyrics to reflect upon

<https://youtu.be/doUjJP43-Qk>