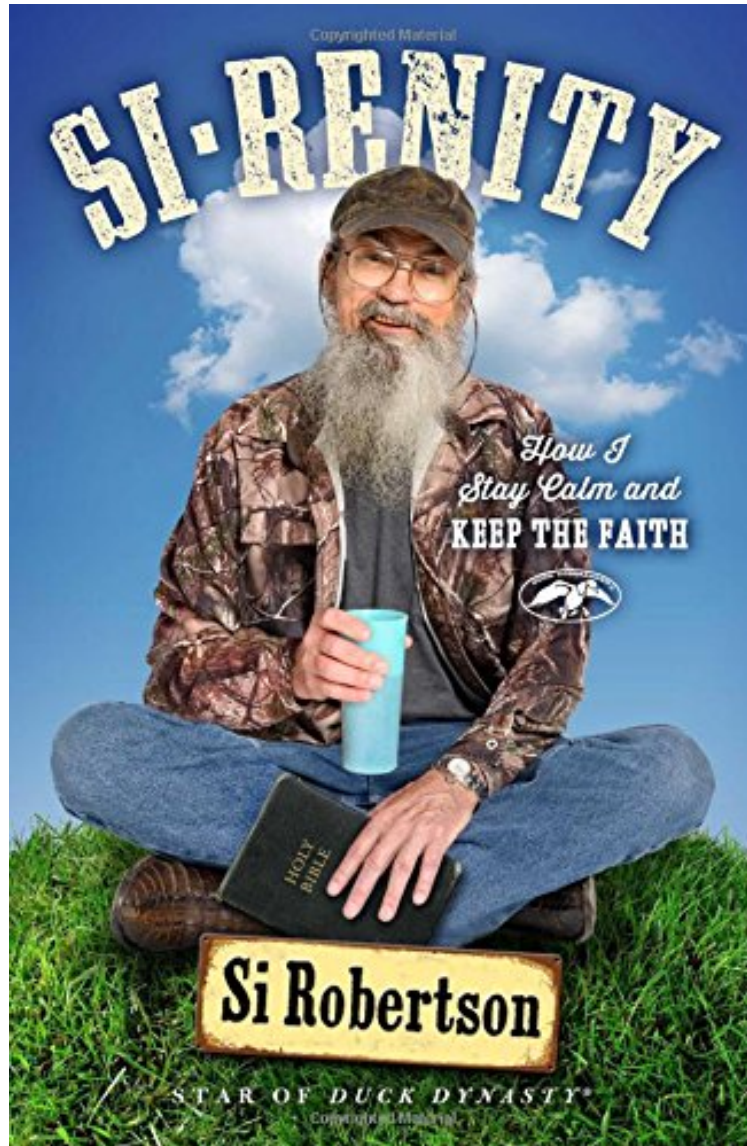


(Download) Si-renity: How I Stay Calm and Keep the Faith

Si-renity: How I Stay Calm and Keep the Faith

Si Robertson

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better.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Si-remity How i Stay CalnBy ROBERT BERNACCHI Fantastic book. I bought it with audio and listening to Uncle Si narrate just cracks me up. If you want a good laugh , get this.

Americas favorite uncle and bestselling author of Si-cology 1, Duck Dynastys Si Robertson, opens up about how his faith has brought him peace and serenity throughout his many not-so-peaceful adventures.Si Robertson has gone from chief duck call maker to beloved star of AEs Duck Dynasty. Through his transition, he has remained untainted by the popularity and money, and is the same man he was before stardomgenerous, kind, compassionate, and a little bit crazy. Beginning where Si-cology 1 ended, Uncle Si gets much more personal as he talks about his life on the road as one of the shows favorites, and how he feels about life after the show. Si-remity will be full of Si-style, hilarious stories, as well as an up-close look inside the heart and faith of this loveable fan favorite. This new book shines a light on the kindness and compassion Si has for children, the military, and the less fortunate. Full of zany, yet honest stories about his day-to-day life on the road, Si narrates the lessons hes learned about living life courageously and joyfully, and shares his personal source of peace and love for othersboth originating directly from his faith in God.

About the AuthorSi Robertson,one of the stars of AEs Duck Dynasty, has worked and hunted for Duck Commander since retiring from the United States Army in 1993. Before he became Americas favorite uncle through his appearances on Duck Dynasty, Si spent his time making all the reeds for the Duck Commander calls and working with Phil to prepare for the next duck season. Now he spends most of his time filming and traveling around the country doing events. But no matter how busy his life gets, he always makes time to sit in the blind with his buddies and hunt. Si lives in West Monroe, Louisiana, with his wife Christine. They have two grown children, Trassa and Scott, and eight grandsons.Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Si-remity CHAPTER 1 SI-RENTITY In January 2005, I suffered a heart attack while duck hunting with my brother Phil and his sons. I knew something was very wrong with me, but I went home and climbed into bed. Hey, Ill admit it wasnt the smartest thing Ive ever done. When I woke up the next morning, my chest pains were so severe that I told Christine to take me to the emergency room. After doctors examined me and put a camera down my throat, they told me I needed open-heart surgery. My left main coronary artery was completely blocked. Doctors told me I had what they call a widow-maker, which could kill me any minute. Its a miracle I didnt die. I smoked cigarettes for more than thirty years, and the bad habit finally caught up with me. I had ignored the warning signs for a long time. I had been suffering heartburn for quite a while, and I was eating antacids like they were MMs. Having heartburn didnt really make sense because Ive always had an cast-iron stomach. Despite my wifes urging, I never went to the doctor to find out what was wrong. So, there I was, lying in a hospital bed, not knowing if I was going to survive to see another sunrise. Surgeons were going to crack open my chest to save my life, and I was scared to death. I thought I might die right there in that hospital bed. In fact, I was such a nervous wreck that my blood pressure was going through the roof. It was a Saturday, and the heart surgeon was hoping to wait until Monday to perform the procedure with his regular team of doctors. If you dont settle down, he told me, Ill have to take you in there right now and do it on my own. I promise, you dont want that to happen. After hearing his warning, I closed my eyes, took a deep breath, and tried to calm down. This is stupid, I told myself. Here I am worried about something I cant control. The Almighty has taken care of my family and me my entire life. Hes certainly going to take care of me now when I need him most. Then I prayed to God: Hey, let me first say thank you. Thank You for bringing me into this world. Thank You for my parents, my brothers and sisters, my wife, and my children. Thank You for my job and my friends. You have watched over me my entire life, and I know Youre watching over me now. Hey, Im just along for the ride, and it has been a good one. Thankfully, my heart settled down with the help of medication, and then I fell asleep. I slept most of the next day and woke up just as nurses were preparing to take me in for surgery. The procedure lasted several hours. The surgeons took a vein from my leg and used it to bypass a blockage and get blood to my heart. Thankfully, the Almighty sent very skilled surgeons, doctors, and nurses to save my life. It was another one of Gods miracles. Just as Id prayed, the Lord watched over me and protected me. After my surgery, I never picked up another cigarette. I promised my wife, children, and the rest of the Robertson clan that I would stop, and thats exactly what I did. Overall, Im in pretty good health for my age. I think its because of the work we do on Phils land. Its great exercise and keeps me in good physical shape. When I remember my conversation with God on that hospital bed, Im reminded of the Serenity Prayer, which was written by Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr in 1951. It has been adopted by Alcoholics Anonymous and is used to help a lot of addicts. I think it can help anyone who is searching for peace and tranquility. God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him Forever in the next. Amen. Too many times, this sinful world tries to steal our joy with addictions, disease, suffering, and other problems. Hey, Jack, nobody is going to steal my joy. My joy comes from knowing that God is the Father and His Son is Jesus Christ. As it says in Romans 15:13:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. My faith is pretty simple: I believe Jesus Christ came to this earth and became flesh to save you and me from our sinful ways. Jesus left our Fathers side, came to the world as flesh, and died on the cross to pay for what you and I have done wrong. Were weak and cant help ourselves, so Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sins. Three days after Jesus Christ died on the cross, He rose from the dead and walked out of his tomb. He spent forty days and forty nights with five hundred people to prove His resurrection. Some people even watched His body ascend to heaven. It was all part of Gods plan. Jesus came to earth of His free will and knew what He had to do to save us. He paid for our sins and then ascended into the heavens. Right now, Jesus is sitting at our heavenly Fathers side. Thats His story and its my story too, and its either true or false. For those of us who have researched it, we know that theres more evidence for its being true than for its being false. Hey, I can simply look at creation and the constellations to know its true. I can go out west to Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota, far away from city lights and pollution, and see stars in the clear night sky. Some of them are millions of miles from Earth, but I can see that theyre perfectly aligned to form a man who is pulling back a bow and arrow (Sagittarius) or a man who is pouring water from a jug (Aquarius). If you look closely enough, you can see a lion (Leo), hunter (Orion), bull (Taurus), and scorpion (Scorpius). Those are designs, and that means there is a designer. God created everything, and Jesus came to planet Earth. My faith in Jesus Christ is based on facts and eyewitness accounts, Jack! As I go through life, I share Jesus Christs story of death, burial, and resurrection with as many people as I can. That is what Matthew 28:19 tells us to do as Christians: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. No matter my troubles or circumstances, I know the Almighty can bring me serenity, courage, and wisdom. God can do it for you too, but we have to surrender ourselves to Him and allow Him to do it. It doesnt do us any good to get stressed out about situations we cant control. Hey, if God was going to take me after my heart attack, it was going to happen, and there wasnt anything I could have done about it. Romans 8:28 taught me that God is in control of all things in my life. He is sovereign over all: We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. My faith in the Almighty brings me more peace and si-renity than anything else in this life. As it says in 1 Peter 1:8, Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. Ive come to know that I can only control my own actions. I can control what I think about and what my reactions will be to certain situations, but God controls everything else. Even though we might feel like life has thrown a truckload of heartache or trouble at us, we have to realize that we dont have control over whats happening around us and we dont have control over others actions. We cant change other people; they have to change themselves. Hey, relax and dont take things so seriously. Have fun and be joyful. People go through stress-filled lives trying to fill voids with sex, drugs, money, and careers. The only thing that can fill the voids in our lives is our faith in Jesus Christ. My faith in the Almighty was never stronger than two years ago when I lost two of my brothers in the span of thirteen months. My brother Harold died of complications from Alzheimers disease on October 27, 2013. He was seventy-four years old. Then my oldest brother, Jimmy Frank, died of a sudden heart attack on November 21, 2014, at the age of seventy-eight. These brothers were two of my heroes. Both of them served in the United States Air Force and attended Louisiana State University. Jimmy Frank served in the air force out of high school, and then used the GI Bill to pay his way through LSU. Harold went to LSU and then joined the air force after college. Harold and Jimmy Frank proved to us younger kids that we were capable of escaping poverty and making better lives for ourselves. They were great role models. Hey, I give my parents, James and Merritt Robertson, a lot of credit for the way they raised us. Even though we were poor, they stressed the importance of education, especially my mother. I wish I had listened to her advice more closely over the years. After Jimmy Frank and Harold graduated from LSU, my other older brothers, Tommy and Phil, enrolled at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. They played on the football team together, and Phil graduated with a bachelors degree in physical education and a masters degree in education. I enrolled at Louisiana Tech in 1967, but was more interested in having a good time while I was there. I dropped out of college after only three quarters, and then Uncle Sam sent me to Vietnam in October 1968. Jimmy Frank earned a masters degree in journalism from LSU and became an accomplished writer. He wrote for newspapers in Louisiana and Texas for more than fifty years, as well as trade publications and corporate magazines. He also wrote a book about Phils lifeThe Legend of the Duck Commander: The Life and Times of Phil Robertson. This book was revised to become Happy, Happy, Happy and was published in 2011. Jimmy Frank and his wife, Connie, lived in Elgin, Texas, and had six sons and eight grandchildren. Jimmy Frank was a caring man and loved being outdoors as much as we do. Harold loved God, his family, the outdoors, and LSU football, probably in that order. He was an officer in the air force and had a successful professional career in many areas. Harold worked as a Boy Scout district executive, high school coach and administrator, plant manager, home health administrator, and politician. More than anything else, Harold loved people and had a gift for bringing them together and leading them. After Harolds retirement, he became a preacher and shared the Good News with many folks in Farmerville, Louisiana. Harold spent the last few months of his life at the War Veterans Home in Monroe, Louisiana. It pained me to see the toll that Alzheimers disease took on my big brother. Harold and his wife, Mary, were married for forty-six years and had two daughters and two grandchildren. My siblings and I have always been very close. I put that at my mothers feet.

Whenever I fought with one of my brothers or sisters when I was a kid, which wasn't very often, my momma liked to recite 1 John 4:20: Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. I loved my older brothers very much. Even though I miss seeing Harold and Jimmy Frank and spending time with them, I don't grieve their deaths. Both of my parents are gone, and my older sister Judy Gimber died of cancer in 2006. She was sixty-four. I mourned their deaths and was saddened when they left this earth, but I know in my heart that they trusted Jesus as their savior. Even though their bodies went into caskets and were buried in the ground, I know their spirits are with the Almighty. I don't remember the specific days my parents, brothers, and sisters died. Because of my faith, their deaths were not catastrophic events for me. It might seem callous to hear someone say it, but not to me. Did their deaths affect me? Yeah, they affected me, but not like death might affect others. I know in my heart that they passed from this earth, and that I will see them again in heaven. Hey, my faith in God provides me with steadfast belief that my life on this physical earth is only the beginning. I know I will have eternal life with the Almighty. I've told my wife and children, When I die, don't go to my grave and mourn. My physical body might be there, but the essence of who I am will be with the Almighty. The neatest thing about Duck Dynasty is that it has strengthened my belief in God. Through all the opportunities I've been given, I've seen Him do amazing things. For example, we've had dozens of kids come to us through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Some of those kids were stricken with cancer, and we prayed with them for mercy and for God to heal their bodies. In some cases, the kids were cured of cancer. People ask us all the time, Why don't y'all get off the Gospel? Hey, I've seen too much and experienced too much to not believe it and share it with others. I think Phil probably says it best: All the money in the world will not get you out of the grave. All the fame in the world will not get you out of the grave. The only way to beat sin and death is by accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Hey, Phil's right that's the only way to beat the grave, Jack. It's my story, and I'm sticking to it.