

Why Star Wars Sucks
By William Missouri Downs

I dislike Star Wars for a good reason. Late in the original movie (1977), the rebels (the good guys) have found a flaw in the design of the Death Star (the bad guys). The good guys reason that if they fired a proton torpedo into a two-meter-wide thermal exhaust shaft in the Death Star, the result would be a chain reaction, a massive explosion, the extermination of tens of thousands of bad guys and a happy ending.

In the climactic final scenes, rebel pilot after rebel pilot, using their computer aiming devices, die trying to hit the exhaust shaft. Then it's our hero Luke Skywalker's turn. Just as it looks as if failure is at hand, Luke turns off his space fighter's computers and uses "the force" to time the launch of his proton torpedoes. In doing so he perfectly hits the tiny ventilation shaft, leading to the demise of the Death Star.

Can you imagine if one of our Air Force pilots in the Iraq war had turned off his/her computers and aimed the F16's missiles simply by using a metaphysical energy field created by all living things that is perceivable to only those in which some vague thing called "the force" is strong? Or would the pilot avoid court-marshal if he/she had shunned such silliness and aimed the weaponry using only their religious faith? It makes about as much sense.

The historian Will Durant wrote, "The effort of Christianity to survive Copernicus and Darwin is the basic drama of the last three hundred years." (The Reformation, Will Durant, Pg. 940) This is true, but Copernicus and Darwin are going to lose this drama as long as we keep making Star War sequels.