

Have you ever been sleepy when you should have been able to stay awake? Have you ever fallen asleep standing up? We've probably all had problems at times. But have you ever fallen asleep while riding a bicycle?

When I was in Scouts, we began to take long bicycling trips to earn special patches. Sometimes we combined these with camping trips. After doing this for awhile, we had gotten to where we could go for miles. One weekend our Scoutmaster planned a trip where we were to ride 25 miles to our district campsite one Friday night, and after spending the night we would cycle 50 miles in a roundabout way home.

We were in good enough shape by this time that the outbound trip did not wear us down much. If you have ever had to spend a night with a bunch of kids, you know how important it is to get them exhausted so that they will go to sleep at night. Someone brought a watermelon, and we ran around during the night chasing and throwing pieces of watermelon at each other. I must have drunk a cola or two as well, because when the time came to go to bed, I could not get to sleep at all. I lay awake watching the stars in frustration. But I was young, and didn't think it would bother me much the next day.

After breakfast and getting our gear put up in the trucks, we took the first 25 miles the next day without any problem. But I started to lag behind after this, and could not keep my speed up. Then I realized that I was actually falling asleep on the bicycle, and only waking up when it began to drift off of the country road I was riding on. No matter how I tried to "rev up" by riding as fast as I could, I soon wound down and began to drift into the ditch. I tried this technique several times before I finally decided that I had to get off of the road and take a nap.

Meanwhile, my Scoutmaster began to get worried, sent "parental patrols" to find me. One of them probably passed me while I was napping. He told me later that he was about to really panic by the time I rode up at the finish line.

It was a strange experience. I would have thought that sleeping on a bicycle would be impossible to do. And it is impossible to do for more than a few seconds (plenty of time for a disaster). I'm just glad that I wasn't driving a car.

Apostles asleep in the garden; how could they (how could I?)

Trying to find a way to pump ourselves up so that we can get into action; trying to keep people (including ourselves) pumped up