

N.U.T.S. (Never Underestimate The Squirrel)

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Squirrel antics are centered on a single-minded purpose. NUTS! And because of that single-minded purpose, they find joy in every moment as though it is the only one that matters. NUTS could be an acronym for Never Underestimate The Squirrel. If you have ever attempted to feed just birds and not squirrels from your backyard feeder, you know that no one has yet succeeded in creating a truly "squirrel-proof" feeder. Products designed to baffle don't baffle them for long. (Check out "Squirrel Obstacle Course" on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)!)

Squirrels aren't rocket scientists, but they use all their squirrely attributes to get to the prize. They dig in with their toes. They balance on precarious perches. They use their tails like anchors. They use their front paws like a surgeon's skilled hands. The squirrel's tactics aren't necessarily perfect, but they are always persistent. Squirrels delight in going "out on a limb." Confident in their God-given gifts, strong claws for climbing, a long tail for balance, an eye for perfectly gauging distances, they are comfortable and unconcerned perched on the tippy-end of a tiny branch.

Squirrels are very intentional in their gathering behavior. When searching for nuts or seeds they will traverse the ground carefully, scouring every inch, rooting under every fallen leaf, overturning stones, digging in the earth. Squirrels don't just pick up one little nut at a time, they stuff as much as they can in their cheeks.

If our priority is the kingdom of God, our intentionality needs to be just as exhaustive. We are to take our witness and words out into the community and the world. We need to be very intentional about our asking and inviting those who have not heard the good news, who have given up hope, who have slipped between the cracks, who are hidden under heavy weights. There is no place we cannot find the kernels of God's kingdom. Being a squirrel means expending a lot of energy in order to achieve the goal of gathering. We too need to be energized, to be up and doing what God has called us to do. Squirrels do not grow weary in well-doing. They don't take time off to sleep in on Sunday morning. Squirrels don't just blow off meetings or commitments because they are tired or bored or depressed. Resting when possible, but always working towards the final goal, that's "squirreliness." Being squirrely isn't necessarily bad.