

Risk - The Necessary Strategy

Christians are to be risk takers.

Not all are to jump out of planes

 bungie jump

 drive race cars

Because we are Christians, we should be people of boldness - people of faith.

Hebrews 11 is called the faith chapter. It lists people who were risk takers. They were willing to believe things and do things that other probably thought foolish.

Think about some of the well-known Old Testament characters and the risks that they took.

 Noah - to build a boat bigger than a 747 in a world that never experienced rain because it was going to flood - that's risky.

 Gideon - He took on an army of 10's of thousands with an army of 300.

 Peter - He stepped out of a boat that was still in deep water.

 Moses - boldly marched back into pharaohs palace after running away 40 years earlier

 Today - missionaries all around the world are risking their lives to live in countries that are violently opposed to Christianity and the spread of the gospel.

God calls us to risk. This Christian walk is a walk of faith. Hebrews tells us that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence fo things unseen. That's the definition of risk. That's what our lives are to be like.

We don't know what's around the corner. We don't know what's behind every door.

If we knew all the answers, then we wouldn't need God.

In acts chapter 1, Jesus told the disciples to wait until the Spirit was poured out and then to be His witnesses in the whole world. That involves a lot of risk.

So how do we live lives of risk?

Bibles to 1 Samuel 17

David and Goliath.

Everyone know this story. This is about the boy who beat the giant.

9ft tall

armor weighs 125 lbs

spear point 15lbs

This is a story of risk

David is risking a lot - he's risking his life.

How do we get to the place of being risky for God?

A - We are stirred by God

Find out what God wants you to do. Get a glimpse of where He is leading you - or more accurately where your heart is stirring.

People move into risky ventured because something stirs them. God gives them a vision or a mission.

Here was David's mission. Something needed to be done about this big guy named Goliath. He was a nuisance. He was defaming the name of God. He was giving the Israelites a black eye.

David was a boy. It is evident that he was likely not a grown man at this time. Yet , here he is - ready to take on a giant. How does something like that happen?

Surrounding him are a lot of adult males. Even the King is present. We know that Saul himself was taller than most males of his day, yet he sits in his tent wringing his hands.

What cause someone to do something out of the ordinary? What causes someone to take a chance - to take risk? God's stirring.

Now there are some who want to take a risk for God just so people can see then doing something great or because they want to be identified with someone who has done something great. Just doing something risky to do something risky - even though it might be couched in spirituality is foolish. It is foolish to enter into risk unless God has given you a vision or a mission.

(Summit)

[Lee McFarland

The story of Radiant Church began seven years ago when Lee McFarland, an engineer for

software giant Microsoft Corporation, said goodbye to a dream job and guaranteed income in millions of dollars to start a church in Surprise, then a little-known city in Arizona. After five years, the weekly attendance had grown to 2,000.

Today, an estimated 4,000 people call Radiant their home church. During the first six months, the church had one all-around employee. Now the church employs 40 full-time and 65 part-time staffers and 380 volunteers.]

(book lion 101)

B - Deal with the Critics.

Anytime you are going to step out in faith you are going to encounter critics.

If you are going to change jobs or start a new business or give it all up and go to the mission field, you will find there are enough people ready and willing to burst your bubble.

A major character in the old testament is Nehemiah.

Nehemiah felt called to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. It was a risky venture.

In chapter 4 of Nehemiah there are two critics - Sanballat and Tobia

1 ¶ When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews,

2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?"

3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!"

What are you doing? This is ridiculous. This is too big an undertaking.

Not enough good material - not enough resources. People are laughing at you.

David has critics.

Three - His brother, Saul, and Goliath

So how does he handle his critics?

A - ignore

He ignored his brother. Notice his brother asks him a Q, but David never responds. The question was not meant to gain information - it was meant as a put down.

God's ways are not always man's ways. Risky moves don't always fit the mold. Sometimes they go against the conventional wisdom.
1Co 1:25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

That's why it's important to be stirred by God first.

B. Saul - He remembered his accomplishments

1 sam 17:34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock,
35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.

Sometimes when you feel God is calling you to something risky and the critics come, you need to remind yourself of the things that God has done in the past. You need to remind yourself of the victories in life. Everyone has some victories. Maybe they aren't as big or great as killing lions or bears, but they are still wins.

C. Prepare to prove yourself

vs 40

Sometimes, the only way you can silence a critic is to prove them wrong. You can't stand toe to toe and verbally explain yourself or make them understand the call of God. Sometimes, you need to take criticism as an opportunity to prepare. And then go do what you have been prepared to do.

Here's something that people often miss. They think that if they are called by God, then they don't have to do any prep work. Just go do what God has put in your heart.

2Ti 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

God had called Timothy. The calling was made sure through Paul.

What Paul did not say - go get em tiger.

You are called, not go preach.

You are called now go be a Christian singer.

You are called - now go start a business.

Paul said - get some preparation. Study. Learn so that you can be successful in your calling.

David was good with a sling. He had practiced. He knew he was good.

But he also took with him 5 stones.

Why/ Some say because of Goliath's bros. Maybe. But it's interesting that Goliath's brothers were not killed by the sling shot.

Maybe he was just being prepared. Maybe he didn't know it would end with one shot.

C. Trust In The Lord

vs 46

This day the Lord God will hand you over.

David did not rely on his own sling, all though he was pretty good with it. He did not rely on a small stone. He knew that this battle was going to be the Lord's.

When we step out in faith for God - we must always put our trust in Him.

Prov 3:5 -6

Jer 9:23 ¶ This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches,
24 but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

One of the heroes and risk takers of the Bible is Abraham.

There is a story in Genesis 22 that is unbelievable.

(Abraham goes to sacrifice his only son - risk)

Part of risk is the risk of belief in God and His promises. There are many who think that faith in God is stupid. So it becomes even risky today to be people of faith. But that's exactly what we are called to do. In fact it's even more risky to not trust God than to trust Him.

And that's where are hope and our success lies. It is in trusting God.

David met risk head on - how? He met it head on because his faith was solidly tied to the Lord. This was not his own battle. It was the Lords. This was not his own idea. It was Gods. It was not his own direction. It was direction from the Lord.

So what keeps us from Risk? What keeps us from doing great things for God?

Comfort-

We get comfortable with our lives. WE like where we are and what we are doing. Things are running smoothly.

There was a man who was comfortable with his life in the Bible

Rich young ruler - what must I do to get to heaven.

Keep the commandment, He said I have kept them all

Jesus said one more thing - give away your riches.

He wouldn't do it.

Age -

I am too old to be risky for God.

Noah was over 500years old when he started to build the ark.

Apathy -

We just don't care about the things of the Lord.

David was insensed that a Philistine was mocking the people of God.

Rom 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Fear-

That's the biggest struggle. We are fearful.

Are over 2000 fears that run the gammut from photophobia(the fear of never looking good in pictures) to arachibutyrophobia 9 the fear of peanutbutter sticking to the roof of your mouth)

Psychiatrists tell us that there are only two fears that we are born with.

Fear of falling and fear of loud noises

So every other fear is learned.

Our task is to unlearn fears. That means we face our fears head on.

There is a little known verse in scripture that is absolutely incredible.

2 Samuel 23:20- 21

Benaniah was one of David's mighty men. He chased a lion down into a pit on a slippery snowy day. He faced his fears.

The cure fro fear of failure is not success. It's failure.

The cure for fear of rejection is not acceptance. It's being rejected and facing it.

SO how can you be risky for God.

1 - ask him to give you something risky to do for him

2. Ask yourself what's keeping you from doing something great for Him.

3. Prepare yourself and trust Gdo to help you make it happen.