

Introduction: Did you ever wonder why God uses some people more than others?

Timeless Axiom

“Every Christian’s life is marked by ‘windows of opportunity’ that demand that they take a **radical step of faith** in order to follow Christ and fulfill His agenda for their life.”

- What makes these steps of faith “**radical**” is that they always involve **significant personal risk!**
- Where there is **no risk** there is **no faith!**

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| Where there is <u>no</u> Faith | – | there is no power |
| Where there is <u>no</u> Faith | – | there is no joy |
| Where there is <u>no</u> Faith | – | there is no intimacy with God |
| Where there is <u>no</u> Faith | – | there is no supernatural miracles |
| Where there is <u>no</u> Faith | – | there is no reward |
| Where there is <u>no</u> Faith | – | it is impossible to please God |
| Where there is <u>no</u> Faith | – | there is hollow religious activity, moralistic rules, and dead orthodoxy |

Practice: Take GREAT Risks!

“and without faith it is impossible to please God...”

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

I. God's calling on our lives always demands we take great _____!

A. Old Testament examples of great risk takers:

- Abram - _____ his home, his land and his family.
- Moses - _____ to his home to deliver God's people.
- David - _____ a giant that others refuse to face.
- Esther - _____ evil in the highest position of authority.

B. New Testament examples of great risk takers:

- Peter - _____ home, business, and future to follow Christ.
- Paul - _____ to those who he sought to kill to obey God's call for his life.
- Jairus - _____ the religious status quo and lays his reputation and career on the line to seek help for his daughter.
- The woman with the issue of blood - _____ her fears and her culture to touch Jesus and be healed.

II. What do all great risk takers have in common?

- **Fear** – of what might happen.
- **Faith** – to “step out” in spite of their fear.
- **Favor** – God's reward and blessing on their life.

III. How to become a great risk taker (GRT) for the glory of God:

A. Refocus your _____. Hebrews 10:38-11:3 (NIV)

³⁸*But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.* ³⁹*But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.*

¹*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*

²*This is what the ancients were commended for.* ³*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

Summary: GRT's fear the loss of God's favor more than the loss of people or things.

B. Rejuvenate your _____. Hebrews 11:4-6 (NIV)

- By starting with "little things." – Abel

⁴*By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.*

- By pondering "big things." – Enoch

⁵*By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.*

- By remembering the “main thing.” – pleasing God

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Summary: GRT's see faith as a verb and not a noun.

C. Recall God's _____.

Hebrews 11:7-40

- Noah – saves the human race
- Abraham – becomes a great nation
- Sarah – gets a child
- Moses – delivers God's people
- Daniel – is delivered from the lion's den
- Jericho's wall falls down
- Rahab – becomes a hero
- David – becomes a king

Summary: GRT's believe God's “invisible promises” for tomorrow are more reliable than the “visible pleasures” of today.

Personal application – your next step:

By faith, what risk does God want you to take in order to please Him?

- Is there something or someone to leave?
- Is there something or someone to return to?
- Is there something or someone to confront?
- Is there something or someone to fight for?

What specific step(s) will you take this week?

I will: _____.