



Touchstones of the Heart

Calculated Risk Or Faith?

Recently I read this passage in Ecclesiastes, “Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.” (Ecclesiastes 11:4) After reading this I thought about my modern view of faith, which goes something like this: “If everything points towards success, then I will venture out and try it.” This kind of thinking however, is more accurately the definition of ‘a calculated risk’, “Undertaken after careful estimation of the likely outcome.” Solomon seems to sum up my view of faith and how I live my Christian life. Yet God longs for me to trust Him without doubt and be willing to step out into the unknown with Him.

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Ministry Updates

Someone asked me after I had finished talking about some of the work I’ve been doing recently, “Does this mean that the ministry is on hold for now?” My answer was emphatic, “No, everything I’m doing right now is to go towards the ministry.” Now if you read the opening article you can see there is a struggle going on inside of me, but one thing I have not given up on is the vision that God has given to Theresa and I. We have a desire to see men and women set free by the power of God and are willing to do whatever it takes to see that happen. So with that in mind here is what we are planning to do in the coming months as God wills: A seminar entitled, “Building a Kingdom Business: A new model for success.”

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Cattails on a Fall Palette
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Newsletter Spotlight

How am I going to make that kind of money and still be able to do what I’m supposed to do for God?” I’ve come realize something about these little sentences that I hear more often than I like to admit, they all begin with ‘I need.’ Jesus said, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33 NIV)

Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart



Battle Field For The Heart
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When I was a kid there was a show on T.V. called “Wait till your father gets home.” I don’t remember a lot about the show, but as I thought about the title I remembered my mom saying the same thing when we were acting up and the terror those words evoked. Masculinity plays a very important part in our world, yet it is often misunderstood and even ridiculed. Dr. James Dobson in his series, “Bringing up boys” illustrates this through contemporary advertising and T.V. shows where men are portrayed as bumbling, idiotic, sex crazed or just plain silly. He laments that this view of manhood has not only invaded the world but has also entered the church. John Eldredge in his book, “Wild at Heart” has also written about how the church seems to fear true masculinity as something dangerous and wild that must be tamed. Now I want to make it clear, true masculinity

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Touchstones of the Heart

Calculated Risk or Faith? (Continued)

I love the scene in the movie Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade where Harrison Ford is required to step off a rock into what appears to be certain death from falling into a huge gorge. All seemed hopeless until he made that first uncertain step. But instead of falling thousands of feet he landed on solid rock! After taking that first step, he then scattered pebbles in front of him revealing a "stone bridge" he could walk on in safety. This is a beautiful picture of faith. When we take that first 'uncertain' step, then God will reveal (at least in part) the next step or steps we are to take. Can I really live this way? This is a very difficult question. At times I think I can, but then doubt creeps in and the words of the enemy come in subtly. Now realize this dialog comes as if it is my own voice speaking, and it goes something like this, "I need \$5,000.00 a month just to make ends meet. How am I going to make that kind of money and still be able to do what I'm supposed to do for God?" I've come realize something about these little sentences that I hear more often than I like to admit, they all begin with 'I need.' Jesus said, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33 NIV) I find that I tend to emphasize the last part of this passage that says, "and all these things will be given..." In the previous verses He had given us what the 'things' are, "what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?" (v. 25) God spoke to me recently and the words did not begin with 'I need'. He said, "David, focus on my kingdom and my righteousness." I've tried this way, 'if I'm at least reasonably sure of success, then I will step out.' You know what? That's not how I want to live anymore! I want to step out where there is nothing, only to find that God has provided a 'stone bridge' for me to walk across. How about you?

Ministry Updates (Continued)

In this seminar we will look at a business model for Christian businesses. Through the use of scripture and personal success stories we will cover topics that will help you get your business going in the right direction. Dates and locations will be announced soon, so watch your e-mail for them. I have recently received notification that my application for credentials has been accepted by Evangel Fellowship International, a fellowship of over 800 Spirit-filled churches and ministries. This is an important step for Rescued Heart as it provides a covenant authority and covering for ministry and the work that we are doing. Please pray for us that God will give us favor as we contact churches both within our fellowship and outside of it for partnership in the work of the Kingdom. And finally, I have designed a T-shirt based on a popular saying in my Thursday night men's group, "Don't listen to the snake." These shirts and other Rescued Heart merchandise and gifts are available for purchase through our online gift store at www.cafepress.com/giftsofheart Proceeds from sales go directly to the ministry, so purchase yours today!

Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart (Continued)

is dangerous and there is something wild in the heart of a man. But it doesn't need to be tamed, it needs to be set free. Let me explain. What is your image of Jesus the man? Is it that familiar painting, you know the blonde haired blue eyed Jesus with little children at his feet? No doubt this image is rooted in some elements of truth (aside from the fact that Jesus was a Jewish man not a blonde haired blue eyed Anglo-Saxon). However, we need to get a picture of Jesus that accurately portrays his masculinity. He was able to fasten a whip out of bundled cords and drive out the money changers, He worked with wood and he was able to command a vessel at sea or the wind and waves on that same sea. The bottom line is that Jesus was a man's man. He didn't run from a battle and in some cases even picked a fight with those who were in opposition to the things of God. It is time for men of God to rise up and be men. I'm not talking about acting all macho, but about living from the true strength that comes from the image of God in you!

May I give one more small piece of advice? Don't do these things because you "ought to", but do them because you understand that without them you will die on the battle field for your heart!

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