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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Faith</th>
<th>No power</th>
<th>No joy</th>
<th>No intimacy with God</th>
<th>No supernatural miracles</th>
<th>No reward</th>
<th>Impossible to please God</th>
<th>Hollow religious activity, moralistic rules, and dead orthodoxy</th>
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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: ____________________________________________.