

Risk Takers for Christ



...isn't it time you took a step of faith?

Dare 2B Daring – August 17, 2018

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“Calloused hands were the badge of the pioneer, but a furrowed brow is the insignia of the present generation.” – Rev. Billy Graham

There are several ways to handle a pressing need or a deep concern. All of them are wrong, except one. See if you can pick the correct answer from the choices below...

1. Worry about it incessantly, while remaining paralyzed by fear and anxiety.
2. Act impulsively out of sheer desperation.
3. Pray about it but refuse to act.
4. Pray about it and then act decisively, trusting in God’s providence, provision and protection.

Obviously, the first response is wrong and so is the second. Option #3 sounds good on the surface and yes, there are times when God wants us to “be still and wait patiently for Him” (see Psalm 37:7). However, in many cases, prayer is only part of the answer. After committing the matter to God, there are times when He expects us to step out in faith. That’s why #4 is usually the best option.

As Billy Graham said in today’s quote, our forefathers weren’t afraid to put their hands to the plow. I’m sure they lifted their eyes – and their prayers – heavenward first, but then they got down to the business at hand. In fact, “putting feet to one’s faith” is an approach straight out of the Book of James.

In Chapter 1, James instructs believers to ask God for direction whenever they lack wisdom. However, he also tells them to ask in faith and not to be double-minded. Otherwise, they will be tossed to and fro like the waves of the sea, subject to ever-changing circumstances and their even more unstable emotions.

Then, in Chapter 2, James instructs the same audience to add works to their faith. That’s right; the half-brother of Jesus told the 1st century Christians that in many cases, prayer – or even faith – is not enough. He even went so far as to say that faith without works is DOA... dead on arrival.

I’m sure you’ve heard it said before, but it bears repeating. Unless God directs otherwise, we should pray as if everything depends on Him and work as if everything depends on us. You might get callouses – or even some blisters – that way, but far fewer wrinkles.

“So David inquired of the LORD, saying, ‘Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?’ And the LORD said to David, ‘Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand.’ So David went to Ball Perazim, and David defeated them there.” 2 Samuel 5:19-20a (NKJV)

- Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him...” (Hebrews 11:6)

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