

Risk **By Randy Henson**

How far are we willing to go?

Last week Cere said that when people go to church they are asking this question;
“What do you have that can make life better for me and my family?”

“There must be an attraction to our quality of life that overshadows the distractions to the quality of play!”

Outside of THE church actual quality in life cannot be found

What we have been set here to do is much larger than we can comprehend

We have obviously been blessed and are being blessed

BUT...

Where do we go now?

We know the area is growing...it is both good and bad

Do you need any convincing that this barn is not big enough for more sheep?

Lives are being changed

If we want to harvest tomorrow, we have to scatter seeds today

God is doing something great NOW

Whenever the Spirit of God breaks into our lives in the middle of the day, or the middle of the week or the middle of a lifetime it is to announce in some way that the time for messing around is over

We are being nudged forward...

Not because we don't want to go

Because we are hesitant

“How could God use me?”

Living by the Spirit of God sets us free from the self-imposed limits, He calls us forward into uncharted waters

So why do we hesitate?

We have a really hard time believing that we are the object of God's delight (1 John 3:1)

We get so stuck into trying to make ourselves acceptable to God

It is a cycle that will not end until we realize how abundantly the Grace of God flows to cover every part of our lives

I wonder if I really have the courage to risk everything on the gospel of grace and accept the total sufficiency of Christ's redemption

My attempts at "self-help"
My discouragement at not being perfect
My boasting about "my victories"
My lack of self-acceptance
Are all contradicting my cry that "Jesus is Lord"

"Jesus is enough!"

If we believe this then we can put to rest the need for 'spiritual cosmetics' and the need to be ok and be willing to risk everything on obedience to Him who sent us

Miracles are risky...Gideon, Noah, Peter

Heaven defines the risks we take for the Lord by a different word...FAITH

"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see." (Hebrews 11:1)

What part of our lives are really so valuable that we just cannot let them go?

Some are just so reluctant to take that last step

It is like the parable of the unforgiving debtor in Matthew 18

A guy owes his master the sum of 10,000 talents – the equivalent of the national debt

How does he go about things when he realizes how much he owes?

Does he cast himself at his master's feet and beg for forgiveness?

He is not about admitting his inadequacies, he is a man after all and he has a backbone

In one of the most ridiculous statements in the entire Bible the guy says "Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all back".

His master instead of listening to that ridiculousness forgives the total debt

Does he understand the extreme generosity that he has been given?

NO! He was willing to work it off, because he couldn't receive the forgiveness, he couldn't extend the forgiveness when someone owed him very little

It is a false sense of self

When perfect is the only thing we will never take a risk, never step out in faith, and never go where He leads

How do we as a church go forward?

We as individuals trust God

We trust Him with tomorrow

It is a continual process it is not a destination

Will we be so confident in trusting Him that we are ready to give an account for the hope that we have to the world around us?

Why when it seems like darkness is taking over we are revving up and beaming with JOY...

It only comes by living by the Spirit

It absolutely has to be a supernatural thing

Acts 4

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees... The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: "O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, 'Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the lord and against his Messiah.' In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

We need a miracle

Will you pray with us that God may use us as individuals and as a group and give us great boldness and courage to be the miracle and to risk everything on the Gospel of Grace?

What do you think would happen if we started praying for each other's boldness and courage?

Will we have the courage to finish the mission that God has placed us here to accomplish?