

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, March 07, 2010
You Have to Take a Risk

You've heard the clichés "*No Pain No Gain*," "*The Greater the Risk, The Greater the Reward*," etc. Well there's certainly a measure of truth there. I want to focus on the need to take a **risk** in order to receive what God has in store for us. I guess some of the focus can be on the resultant pain area as a result of taking the risk, but let's just start with the second area first. The risk I'm talking about involves your reputation. If we try to play it safe as a Christian by keeping our relationship with the Lord a "personal" matter and don't allow those around us to see what's going on inside, we're not going to live up to the God given potential the Lord intended us to walk in. At the outset, let me say that I am not looking for you to do anything as an attempt at being spiritual. Rather, to allow it to flow as the natural by-product of truly understanding our identity in Christ.

There are many scriptures that speak of the divinity of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. **Colossians 2:9,10** *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.* **John 1:1-3** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* **Hebrews 1:3a, 8-10** *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. 8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. 10 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.*

There are also many scriptures that speak of his humanity. He was both God and man. How is that possible? God did this miracle for us in order to make the full payment for our sins and free us to have a relationship with him as he intended from the beginning of time. **Philippians 2:6-11** *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* **1 Timothy 2:5** *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men-- the testimony given in its proper time.*

Jesus lived his life in a two-fold way. First he came for the already stated purpose of taking the penalty for our sin and then secondly, to set an example of what being a man or human being really looked like. God always intended us to walk in the realm of the miraculous or the supernatural. Jesus lived a life of intimacy with the Father and only did what the Father showed him to do and only said what the Father revealed. Jesus was not **All-knowing** as a man. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and operated in the supernatural realm by way of spiritual gifts, the same way he intends us to walk in. That first Scripture above states, "***and you have been given fullness in Christ.***" Ephesians tells us that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is in us. This is some familiar territory for us and yet needs to be rehearsed again and again because we need the conditioning that some of our prior religious experiences have produced washed away. We were inoculated to think this is not possible.

We need to take a risk like the woman with the issue of blood in **Luke 8:41-56**. The law prohibited her from touching anyone because of her "unclean" condition and yet she knew if she could just touch the hem of Jesus' garment she would be healed. When she thought she could just slip in unnoticed and get her healing, Jesus felt the miracle working power flow through him and asked, "***Who touched me?***" She came trembling at his feet, probably because of her awareness of her violation of the law, and confessed

the whole thing to which Jesus replied, "**Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.**" She needed a healing and risked whatever may have come her way to get what she needed. The Lord is calling us to live godly effective lives that continue the work of Christ. He said, "**As the Father has sent me so I am sending you.**" He wants us to walk in the joy of an intimate relationship with him and flow in the same miracle working power. We short-change ourselves by relegating all the miracles to Jesus thinking he could do them because he was God. He did not do them as God, but as man just like US. Let's pray and ask God to reveal day by day the divine appointments he is setting up and then stepping out in faith to believe that he will be faithful to act according to his word. Let's take the risk! The world is waiting for the church to rise up to be what God always intended it to be. What's the worst that could happen? It's certainly worth it.