



General Topics :: RE:Deciding to leave my work to serve God

RE:Deciding to leave my work to serve God - posted by itg3712 (), on: 2010/4/21 7:03

Paul continued to work as a tentmaker and provided ministerial services at no charge. When he collected money, he collected it for others such as the poor saints in Jerusalem. Are you prepared to work in Christian ministry without making an income from it?

McDonald's and Chili's charge big fees and require significant contractual obligations before you can run one of their restaurants. Sadly, many treat Christian ministry as if Jesus were handing out free franchises and they operate a business and generate an income as if they themselves were no-obligation franchisees.

Re: - posted by HeedWatchmen (), on: 2010/4/21 7:45

The most important thing is to follow Christ no matter what it is that He is asking us to do. It is always important to consider the cost of following Him, but no matter what the cost we need to be ready to say "Yes, Lord."

Re: Deciding to leave my work to serve God - posted by Goldminer (), on: 2010/4/21 9:43

I JUST WATCHED THE FRANCIS CHAN VIDEO WHERE HE IS LEAVING A VERY SECURE PLACE IN MINISTRY TO STEP OUT ON GOD'S WORD. WHAT A BLESSING TO KNOW THERE ARE STILL A FEW OUT THERE WHO ARE MOVED BY GOD RATHER THAN IMAGINED SECURITY.

THERE IS NO SECURITY OUTSIDE OF GOD'S WILL. BUT WHEN ONE STEPS OUT LIKE ABRAM DID, HE BECAME S ABRAHAM. IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL IS PERFECT SECURITY. WE MIGHT NOT HAVE ALL THE DOODADS AND COMFORT WE ARE USED TO, BUT WE WILL HAVE HIM. HALLELUJAH....

Re: Francis Chan Video - posted by gmwrack, on: 2010/4/26 21:34

Goldminer, do you have the link to that video?

Re: - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2010/4/26 21:56

Francis Chan video about leaving ministry:

http://www.catalystspace.com/catablog/full/francis_chan_is_stepping_out_in_faith/

In Him....

Re: Francis Chan Video - posted by gmwrack, on: 2010/4/27 10:13

Thank you, it is a comfort to me to hear words that are very closely describing how I feel right now. Also saw video here on sermonindex- "Is This Church?", which sums up a lot of what I have been thinking about of late. The church he describes I can't find where I live and may be scarce likely to find anywhere. What I can do is whatever the Lord asks of me at any given time & I am so grateful for those opportunities to be of any service or to share what God has given me. Lately I just know God has been tugging at my heart, requiring a greater commitment, which I am overjoyed to give no matter what the cost.

Re: - posted by hoochoou (), on: 2010/4/27 10:23

It was a big lift to hear of this for me as well. God has called me out in a similar way recently. When I told my pastor I was leaving and I didn't know where I was going his first words were God doesn't do that. He has since apologized and I hold no ill will, but the fact remains that those words caused a shaking within me. When someone you look up to tells you that, it makes you question what you've heard. Not necessarily doubt, but question. It's encouraging to know that God is doing this in others as well.

We've discussed the modern church and it's format many times on the forums and I think what we're seeing is God calling people out. Not to change a format but to hear from Him and trust in Him and speak of Him, and Him alone. May God be glorified in ALL that we say and do.

Re: - posted by gmwrick, on: 2010/4/27 10:50

I am a rider/trainer and have a very promising dressage competition horse going that my family has made big sacrifices to get us up and running to compete. While we scrape from month to month, we also have a couple of rental houses and our own house we're paying on. We are established in a well known church. If I told anyone I would be willing to walk away from all of it they would say I was out of my mind. I am praying with my husband for wisdom and guidance from God in all of this. To serve in even the simplest way at my church, you must go through a federal screening process and endless classes- in the world today, Jesus and his disciples would be cited for feeding the five-thousand without a food service permit and insurance. Ridiculous. I believe God's word wholly and am seeing how much we have allowed the world to contaminate what is truly a radical life, this life that we as Christians are called to. It is raising the bar for us modern believers to serve as those disciples did, fully and without reservation- to give all.

Re: - posted by gmwrick, on: 2010/4/27 12:08

Quote from Kieth Green:

Let's all repent of the idolatry in our hearts and our desires for a comfortable, rewarding life when, really, the Bible tells us we are just passing through as strangers and pilgrims in this world (Hebrews 11:13), for our reward is in heaven. Let's not forget that our due service to the Lord is "... not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake"(Phil. 1:29).

Wow.

Re: , on: 2010/4/27 21:59

Most believers never enter the ministry because they have never been called there, but rather they have been called to be a light where they have been stationed.

It's a bold thing to step out by faith when God is urging you to fulfill your destiny, but not everyone is called to do that. Some are told to stay at their place of work, others are told to leave the Church they are attending, while very few are told to leave work and family altogether to be alone with God absolutely.

Everyone's role in this walk is different. Not everyone can be a John the Baptist or an Elijah feeding off wild honey and locust.

Luke 12:48 unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Every man's faith is different. Some can walk away from everything while others cannot. It's a folly to dream of being something you're not and leave your family only to find out that God never instructed you to leave.

Someone might say, "Well, God's word says for us to leave all".

That same word says to cut your hand off if your hand offends.

We must hear from the Rhema, the living God who speaks to us from His Holy Spirit that is within us to make that word come alive else, we will only be trying to live by a dead letter. God is not a dead letter, He is alive in Heaven in us His Kingdom. Who speaks every day giving to man His daily bread, what He ought to live by. We live by that daily bread, that which is proceeding out of His mouth. And what He speaks will confirm His written word, for what He speaks and the testimony that was written by Holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Ghost will He confirm in us.

Re: leaving your job - posted by waitingone, on: 2010/4/27 23:51

I have never posted on this site so I hope I am responding to the right one. I just wanted to comment on something my wife and I and our children are going through. I will try to be brief:

My wife and I graduated from seminary almost four years ago. Prior to that I spent five years as an undergraduate in bible college. Needless to say, by the time we were through seminary we were spent, burned out, but still seeking the Lord and trusting Him for direction. During this time, after seminary, I gradually became more and more frustrated (I am abridging my experience). I began to really just want a good job to take care of my wife and children. One of the reasons for this, I think, was partly burn out, and partly the fact that we really had to trust God to get us through school. By trust I mean we had no money for rent and we were waiting month to month, at one point, for about 3 mos for God to provide (our rent was 1150.00 a month for a small two bedroom apartment). And there were many other times we had to see God move in order to get through. The point, I guess, is that after seminary that constant trusting, combined with a my heart not really being right in certain ways produced a desire not to have to trust. As many on this site know, our modern ideas of trust are quite shallow and weak. But trusting from a biblical, living, God inspired perspective absolutely kills your flesh. I am tempted to say that it requires your whole being, but that is false. It requires a death; continual killing, dying, and turning away from your own desires. And frankly, it can be draining; Of course, God renews our faith and we look back and see that, amazingly, despite all our doubt and failure, we have actually grown a bit. Anyway, I was burned out and simply wanted a good job so that I could take care of my family and, to be honest, as I have just said in more words than I probably needed, I wanted to get away from the crucified life. I wanted to go my own way a bit. Basically I wanted to be a decent religious person, but the salvation of the Lord requires flesh killing trust (faith). Well, the interesting thing is that the Lord gave me the job I was seeking. I was comfortable. I was making decent money. I had plenty of time with the family. By this time, we had been out of school for about two years. About 8 months into this "job", that I thought I wanted, God began to stir us up. The conditions surrounding this time are relevant so I will discuss it briefly. About a year prior to getting the "job" I applied to several PhD programs in the US and the UK. Anyone who has ever done it knows it can be a long and somewhat draining process. Anyway, the one school I really wanted to get into was the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Well, I sent off everything and about a month later I hear from them saying that they did not receive all of the materials they needed to consider my application. Of course, St Andrews is an extremely popular school for theological studies so there was no way they would accept my application without all of the materials. I contacted former professors about the letters of recommendation, but I heard nothing in return. I did not pursue it further, and I heard nothing further from St Andrews. Fast forward a year and half. I have now been in my "job" for about four months. Things are going fine, but I am empty. There is a low level discontentment. I believe this is from the Lord. How absolutely wonderful the Lord does not let us go, but keeps us hoping, trusting, and waiting. So, four months into the "job", I get an email from St Andrews University. They have recommended I be admitted into their PhD program at St Mary's College. Well, of course, I was amazed. I couldn't believe it. So I began to think about how to go. How to get to Scotland. At this point, the reality of the money came into focus. It was going to cost an enormous sum of money. We didn't have it. So I stopped thinking about going. Instead, I just sort of settled into my "job". Then a couple of months later God began to stir us up again. I don't know any other way to explain it than that. I felt stirred to believe God, not only that He could provide the money, but that He could enable me to actually complete the degree. More than that though, I knew the Lord was leading me, my wife and I, we were in total agreement, to trust Him to fulfill that to which He was calling us. To put it bluntly, and I told my wife this one day after we had decided to wait on the Lord, God was calling me to trust Him and deny myself so that He could use me as He desired to bless others. God wanted me to trust Him and live for other people. My wife and I knew the Lord was calling us to trust Him so we said OK. I resigned my position (which was not easy) and we began to wait on the Lord, to see what He would do. We were trusting God to provide an enormous amount of money to go to Scotland. We had no money coming in and no other job lined up. We had no back up plan. We waited, and waited, and waited. Well, the money hasn't come in...yet. And maybe it won't. The fascinating thing is that I don't even want to go to Scotland as much. I don't know that I really want a PhD. Here is what I really want to communicate in all of this; we were waiting and trusting God. We gave away our possessions. We had very few clothes. We were literally sitting in a house everyday praying and waiting on the Lord to move. And do you know that the Lord did move, but, and here is the most important point in all of this, He moved us to the last place on earth I wanted to go;...My mother's house. I did not intend for that to be funny at all. We did not ask to go. She offered, and wanted us to come and stay for a while. It was humiliating. It was the last thing I would have asked for. I was angry. I was confused. I felt abandoned. It has been over a year and a half now since we have been "stuck". We continue to wait on God, and I must also say, during this time of frustration and confusion and discouragement, I have learned more about the true gospel and the way of the cross than I ever did in all of my years in school. I have also learned that I don't like the cross too much. It is painful and difficult and in and of myself I will always run from it if I can, but praise the Lord God is saving me and through my circumstances I am becoming a partaker of His Holiness. Bottom line, if the Lord is leading you to trust Him and leave your job; go for it. Just remember George Mueller's point, that God gives faith for the very purpose of testing it. You will be tested and your family and others will likely disagree with you, if not outright mock you. One of the things that I think about a lot

is how much we are prone to Idolatry. We do not really trust the Lord. We have too many ways out. Too many plan B's. Most professing believers, in this country anyway, can not comprehend trusting God in a truly biblical way.

Re: Trust, instability and faith., on: 2010/4/28 6:06

"I have also learned that I don't like the cross too much. it is painful and difficult and in and of myself I will always run from it if I can, but praise the Lord God is saving me and through my circumstances I am becoming a partaker of His Holiness.

"Bottom line, if the Lord is leading you to trust Him and leave your job; go for it. Just remember George Mueller's point, that God gives faith for the very purpose of testing it."

You will be tested and your family and others will likely disagree with you, if not outright mock you. One of the things that I think about a lot is how much we are prone to Idolatry. We do not really trust the Lord. We have too many ways out. Too many plan B's. Most professing believers, in this country anyway, can not comprehend trusting God in a truly biblical way." waiting one.

"GOD GIVES FAITH FOR THE VERY PURPOSE OF TESTING IT."

WOW! Thank you for your most authentic testimony. It ministered to me more than you know. I think it is the instability of walking by faith that creates something in us that cements us into God. He fills in the gaps of our toddling with his strong arm to carry us...but can we believe?

When He reveals Himself as Savior and deliverer over and over, then we become more confident.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (New American Standard Bible)

9. "And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness " Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

Psalms 9:10

"Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you."

Thank you. Tom

Re: - posted by gmwrack, on: 2010/4/28 18:27

I am so thankful for everyone's words of encouragement & scripture. I am obviously waiting on the Lord for direction. I know folks in the ministry living hand-to-mouth who get to see God's grace in their lives so often in huge ways. I am obviously going to stay in the word and prayer, waiting on God for his guidance. I believe the bar was higher in the New Testament church than it is today (in terms of commitment), but that God is raising that bar, at least in my case, anyway. Believers in America don't usually have to sacrifice much to follow Jesus. I want to always be able to say yes, Lord- no matter what, with my whole heart.