

our heritage



authentic
love



radical
generosity



hopeful
partnership



intense
spirituality



faithful
risk



passionate
mission

What we seek first
DEFINES us most.

Matthew 6:33 [ESV]

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” – Jesus

James 1:2-5 [NIV]

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

God sees **TOMORROW** like we see **YESTERDAY**.

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 [NIV]

¹ And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

Radical Generosity is a way of **LIFE**.

2 Corinthians 8:3-7 [NIV]

³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶ So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷ But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

John 3:16 [NIV]
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Followers of Jesus **FORFEIT** comfort for Kingdom.

2 Corinthians 8:8-9 [NIV]

⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Faithful risk is a precursor to divine **PROVISION**.

So What?

Risk beyond **RECOVERY**, but not beyond God's **COVER**.

Evidences of **Radical Generosity**:

- Maintaining a posture to seek more **FOR** than **FROM**.
- Striving to **GIVE**, more than **HAVE**.
- Joyfully sacrifice so others know Jesus.

Evidences of **Faithful Risk**:

- Choosing Kingdom over comfort.
- Risk beyond recovery, but not beyond God's cover.
- Living for what "can be" in Jesus.

Notes:

"Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter." - Francis Chan

Prayer of the People

Throughout "Our Heritage," we are inviting the entire Heritage family to participate in what some traditions have called "Prayers of the People." These prayers provide an opportunity to connect with God in one heart and voice even as we disperse through the week.

This week, consider the great love and gift of God in Jesus Christ. As you do so, we invite you to pray a prayer like this one:

Lord, you showed the world your radical generosity and modeled faithful risk by giving us Christ. Hear our prayer as we ask you to mold us into a people who live generously out of who we are in you. Stretch us into new spaces of Kingdom living and help us to be seekers of you over our own comfort.



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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) *Admitting* that you, like everyone, are in need of rescue.
- 2) *Asking* God to forgive your sins.
- 3) *Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.*

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

:: *What is one thing God has been showing you about yourself or Himself in the “Our Heritage” series?*

:: *Share how you’ve been working to develop Authentic Love and/or Spiritual Intensity in your life this week? [i.e. How are you cultivating intimacy with God?]*

:: *Reread 2 Corinthians 8:1-9.*

:: *What stands out to you from this passage?*

:: *Discuss how the Macedonians’ demonstrated Radical Generosity[RG] & Faithful Risk[FR]?*

:: *What can we learn from their choices/actions?*

:: *How might we shape our lives based on their example?*

:: *What can we learn about living a life rooted in Radical Generosity & Faithful Risk from God’s actions and Jesus’ example?*

:: *Pastor Shawn challenged us to...risk beyond recovery, but not beyond God’s cover. What are some personal implications of living like that? How has your life intersected with this principle?*

:: *How has God positioned you in this life to serve and honor Him with RG & FR?*

:: *Identify one thing you believe God may be asking you to do next?*

:: *Take time to pray & ask God to give you wisdom & favor to do his will.*

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – October 19 & 20, 2019

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