

Lifespan Faith Development for Adults & Older Youth “at home” or “on-the-go”

For March 26, 2017 - Theme of the Month: RISK

Curated by Mary B. Collins, Director of Lifespan Faith Development, curated from Soul Matters



PODCAST

- **Addicted to Risk – TED Talk ~Naomi Klein**

https://www.ted.com/talks/naomi_klein_addicted_to_risk#t-197903

We have become far too willing to gamble with things that are precious and irreplaceable.

- **Toxic, Risk, Danger...Creativity**

<http://www.radiolab.org/story/107024-toxic-risk-danger/> Can you imagine a job where the

materials you work with daily could actually kill you? An exploration of why creative people

sometimes put themselves at risk: dancers dive through glass, a sculptor constructs a tornado of fire and an injured trumpeter tries to get back his chops.



SONG: Courage Of Your Convictions - The Hollies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEG0mzUVFmA>

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE: Resist Standing Up and Risk Sitting Down

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

- Winston Churchill

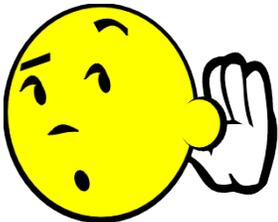
Winston Churchill’s words are indeed a celebration of the “quieter” acts of courage. Yes, the more assertive risks get most of the attention: speaking up, defending, pushing back, demanding your voice be heard. And yet, sometimes that instinct to “let them have it” isn’t the brave thing to do; it’s just the easiest. Sometimes speaking up is simply a way to avoid courageously listening to the other side. Sometimes putting yourself on the line to “change them” is just a sneaky way to avoid them changing us. Or a tragic missed opportunity to grow. Yes, we should urge each other to “bravely keep going” and “courageously take control.” Yet, there are also times when what’s most needed is the risk of letting go of control and just sitting with unknowing.



And so, maybe a bit more space it needed. Maybe it would do us some good to make some room for a spiritual time out” before we leap into the louder acts of bravery.

Maybe it’s good to risk “letting a little more in” before we “let them have it.”

- **And so, here’s what this spiritual assignment invites us to do:**



Find three opportunities to “sit down and listen” when your first instinct is to “stand up and speak.”

Yes, that’s *NOT* going to be easy. But it will be worth the risk! And share with a family member or friend not only what it was like to try to listen better, but also (and maybe more importantly) what it was like to better monitor (and understand) your instinct to stand up and speak.

QUOTES:

“The truth is, everyone is going to hurt you. You just got to find the ones worth suffering for.” ~ Bob Marley

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.” – C.S. Lewis