



Brian Weller - Teaching Letter

Subject: TIME TO RISK IT ALL

Another new year has arrived and with it comes another opportunity for God to manifest His love and glory in us and then through us. If you're like me, every new year is a time of new beginnings. It is a time when I traditionally turn the page on the old year and look at the new year as a new start, as another new beginning. Philippians 3:13-14 says "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." It's time to give God the glory for any successes in our lives and to ask forgiveness for the failures and sins. The beauty of God is He is always ready to bring us to another level in our relationship with Him. The beauty of being a lover of God is that there is always more of Him to discover, more of Him to experience and more of His plan to fulfill.

Many make up resolutions to start the year in hopes of making much needed changes. Instead, I like to pray for new revolutions in my life. To pray for God to overthrow me as the misguided ruler of my own destiny and to insert Himself, no matter what the cost. as God, Lord, Ruler and King. I pray this year I would recognize His loving authority in every area of my life and be free enough to follow Him into every situation I hear Him calling me into and to learn to humble myself so that He can increase and manifest Himself in me for His purposes.

This year I read a book that I have to put in my top 20 favorites of all time. The title of the book is "The Barbarian Way" by Erwin Raphael McManus. I found the book on the web site persecution.com. It was on my heart today to share a couple paragraphs from the book.

"Our redemption will only come if we find the courage to escape the prison we have created for ourselves. Risking everything to live free is our only hope--humanity's only hope. Jesus is being lost in a religion bearing His name. People are being lost because they cannot reconcile Jesus' association with Christianity. Christianity has become docile, domesticated, civilized. We have forgotten that there is a kingdom of darkness stealing the hopes and dreams and souls of a humanity without God. It is time to hear the barbarian call, to form a barbarian tribe and to unleash the barbarian revolt. Let the invasion begin..."

As the new year begins, let's truly put God first. Let's ask for the Lordship of Jesus to be manifest in us and through us. I've always said God is not looking for the most talented or the most gifted people to fulfil His purposes but rather the most surrendered. Will you

allow God to use you this year in the place or places He has put you to bring His presence? Can we look past our own inability to His abilities to do more than we can ask or think? Can we look at our jobs, our homes our ministries as places for God to use us to bring His presence and love rather than a place for us to build our own little kingdoms? I believe we can! I believe we want to! I believe we want to live above ourselves.

If we are living within the realm of what we ourselves can be and do we are not living out God's will. God always brings us to places where we can live by faith, where we can take a risk for the sake of others to accomplish His purposes. After all, according to 1 Corinthians 6:20 "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

In the book "The Barbarian Way" by Erwin McManus he writes: "Jesus did not suffer and die so that we could build for ourselves havens, but so that we might expand the Kingdom of His love. Because invisible kingdoms are at war for the hearts and lives of every human being who walks on the face of this earth. And times of war require barbarians who are willing to risk life itself for the freedom of others."

It's time to risk it all! It's time to be free! John 8:36 says "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." There's no time to be held back by our fears, or our inability or failures of the past. There's no time to be held back by our lack of finances or to be held captive to our finances, or our things. A free man or woman in God's kingdom doesn't worry about the future or fret about the past. They live for the moment, they live to invade the darkness with the light of God's presence. Their life is not as important as the lives they are sent to rescue from darkness. Their plans are not as important as God's.

The Lord spoke to my heart one day and said "If you come into my presence, you will go out with my presence." Let's all start today by drawing close to Him in worship and the word. To listen to His voice and then respond to it not as a suggestion but as a directive.

I do pray that this year will be a year of blessing on you and your family as you seek Him and His will. I pray that God uses you beyond anything you could ever imagine this year.

In His love and service, Brian

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