

January 13 | Sunday

Habits for Spiritual Fitness: Stretch-Taking Spiritual Risks

Read [Philippians 3:1-11](#)



14 | Mon – The risk of moving out | Read [Genesis 12:1-5 and 15:1-6](#)

Abraham was asked by God to leave his father's family, his city and his country to go to an unknown place. Although God promised to make Abraham and his descendants into a great nation *and* that the whole world would be blessed as a result of his obedience, there was no proof it would actually happen. Talk about moving out of your comfort zone! What is God asking you to do that might be a serious stretch for you?

15 | Tue – The risk of sharing | Read [1 Kings 17:7-16](#)

It can be very hard to share what you have when there is hardly enough for your own family. That is what a widow was asked to do during a three-year drought. Read how this unnamed woman took a risk to obey God's direction. See the miracle of provision that took place as a result. Are you willing to obey what God says in spite of how your personal risk may affect your family? Do you trust that God will take care of them too?

16 | Wed – The risk of failure | Read [Judges 6:11-16](#)

If ever there was a wimp, it was Gideon. He was a kind of 'who, me?' fellow who had to be convinced that God saw him as a mighty warrior who would deliver his people from their oppressors. It is a story of what can happen when you begin to see yourself as God does. As you believe and act on what God tells you to do, the impossible can become reality. (See the rest of the story in 7:1-22). The first step will be the hardest but will you try?

17 | Thu – A reluctant risk-taker | Read [Jonah 1:1-3](#)

Old Testament prophets were God's spokesmen, receiving messages from God to give to the people. Often the message was calling them to repent and turn away from their sin. What caused Jonah to run away from this particular assignment? Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria whose cruelty was legendary. Was Jonah more afraid of those people than of not doing what God said? Have you ever run from a God-given assignment? What happened?

18 | Fri – Do it or else! | Read [Daniel 3:13-30](#)

Have you ever been threatened if you didn't do something against your principles? The king built a gold statue and commanded that everyone must bow down to worship it. Only three men were willing to risk their lives rather than be disloyal to the God they loved. Read their courageous answer to the king in verses 17-18. How do you feel when you realize God could rescue you from injustice but sometimes He may not, for reasons you can't understand? Will you trust Him anyway?

19 | Sat – Not the only one | Read [John 3:16](#)

You are not the only risk-taker. What kind of a god would give his created beings power of choice? Only one who wanted a relationship based on love instead of fear. Jesus gave his life, making it possible for us to come into God's family, fully knowing that some would reject his gift. Does Jesus' example give you courage to risk loving someone who may never appreciate your sacrifice? Is the risk worth the potential reward? Jesus did.