

Take the initiative; reject passivity

By Myan Subrayan

I was 19 years old and had recently become a Christian when I overheard my Hindu parents talking. My dad's accounting business was in dire straits and he wanted to sell the house. I stepped in and told him not to sell the house as I would come in and help him. I boldly told him that my God would provide for us all. My dad was reluctant, but through my persistence he agreed that I could start in the business.

When my family and friends heard what I was doing, they told me that I knew nothing about business and I would fail. Undaunted, I responded that they were right and I did not know much, but I knew one thing and that was if I put my trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, He would direct my paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).

I remember getting down on my hands and knees in my father's office and crying out to God to bless me in this business so that my parents might see and be saved. God answered my prayers and as a huge financial blessing flowed into their business, my parents could not deny the work of the Lord and gave their hearts to Jesus 5 years later.

By the way, the same people who said I would fail when I started in the business, later



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became my employees!

I believe that if I had chosen to just sit back and do nothing when my dad shared about the dismal state of our business, we could have lost everything. Even more importantly, my parents could have lost the opportunity to receive the greatest gift ever, salvation in Christ. It was only through taking the initiative and being bold in my stand of faith that God blessed my father's business and set all this in motion.

When Jesus says to "go into the world and make disciples," this doesn't mean forgetting those who are closest to us – our family and friends. We can "go" to those who are near to us. If I am going to heaven, I want to make sure that I don't leave any

of my loved ones behind, they're coming with me!

God's Word reveals to us our God-given authority. In Genesis 1:26-28 we learn that God has given us the mandate to have power over the earth. This power was taken away from us when Adam sinned, but now through Jesus it has been restored to us, through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are blameless toward Him." (2 Chronicles 16:9). According to this verse, God wants to show his strength on the earth; however he is searching for someone to stand up and be counted.

When we see injustice being committed, we should not turn a blind eye or pray for someone else to take a stand. God has called and empowered us to take a stand.

In the story of David and Goliath, when everyone else was being passive and allowing Goliath to insult God, David took a stand. He had a heart after God and he knew that the battle was not his but the Lord's. God was looking for someone like David to work through and to show Himself strong. David was able to prevail against Goliath, not by might, nor by power but by the Spirit of God

(Zechariah 4:6).

David could have sat back and analysed the situation on his drawing board and looked at the pros and cons before making his decision to fight. "Well, Goliath is really a trained man of war, about 9 feet tall. Me? Well, I am only a boy. The only combat training I have is in keeping sheep. He has the most sophisticated weapons: javelin, spear. All I have is a sling! The rational conclusion is that I don't have a chance, so I will just retreat."

Thank God, David was a man of faith and didn't give up.

We can all relate this story to some aspect of our own lives.

I like the saying: "Without God you cannot, without you God will not."

Israel saw Goliath through their natural eyes and said that he was so big that they could not defeat him. David looked at Goliath through the eyes of faith and said that Goliath was so big, how could he miss him.

When we begin to look at our circumstances and reason them out in our natural thinking and believe that we are inadequate, we lose faith. And without faith, God is not pleased (Hebrews 11:6).

"He who observes the wind [and waits for all conditions to be favorable] will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap." (Ecclesiastes 11:4 – AMP)

If we wait for the perfect conditions to do things, we are missing the most important part – faith in God. God is well pleased when we have faith in Him. Where we come up short, He extends.

As Christians, we know that there is a battle taking place for all our souls. This is why God has equipped us with spiritual weapons (Ephesians 6). He has called us to take up arms and not to lie down for the enemy to walk all over us. What are you doing with your weapons of spiritual warfare? Remember, the weapons of our warfare are not of this world but they are mighty in God for the destruction of our enemy.

In the words of Edmund Burke, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

There are people dying out there! Let's take the initiative to lead them into the kingdom of heaven and ensure no man is left behind!

• Myan Subrayan will be participating at all five Promise Keepers Leave No Man Behind 2008 Events: Dunedin, July 25-26; Christchurch, August 15-16; Tauranga, August 29-30; Wellington, September 12-13; Auckland, October 10-11. See website for further details: www.promisekeepers.org.nz.



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