

Security Briefs Episode 16

Risk Myth Busters Part 5

In this episode, we're revisiting the "risk myths" from Anna Hampton's book, *Facing Danger* (2nd Edition). For more background, check out episodes 8 through 11.

Today, we'll discuss two myths tied to misunderstandings about the relationship between risk and faith.

Risk Myths

Risk Myth #8

My faith is proportional to the amount of risk I take.

This myth suggests that the more risk we take, the greater our faith. However, this isn't a biblical perspective. Anna and Neal Hampton explain that, when facing risk, people fall into three categories:

1. **Faithful**
2. **Foolish**
3. **Cowardly**

Let's use the example of staying or going from the previous episodes to help us better understand what we mean by this:

- A foolish person might stay in danger for the thrill, adventure, or recognition—or leave when staying would have been wiser.
- A cowardly person might stay out of fear of criticism or leave when they should have stayed to fulfill their call.
- A faithful person makes decisions—whether to stay or go—based on God's calling, not fear or self-glory. They act as wise stewards of their responsibilities.

Faith isn't about how much risk you take but about being aligned with what God is calling you to do in each moment.

Risk Myth #9

If something bad happens, it's because I didn't pray, work, or prepare enough.

This myth puts the responsibility for something bad that happens squarely on my shoulders. It suggests that when something bad happens, it demonstrates a lack of faith. But scripture teaches otherwise. Faithful decision-making often involves preparation and planning.

- **Biblical Examples:** Nehemiah used guards to protect workers, and Paul avoided unnecessary danger.
- **Wisdom vs. Fear:** Wisdom addresses risk responsibly, while fear avoids risk entirely.

Mitigating risk isn't faithless—it's wise stewardship of God-given responsibilities. Prayer and preparation don't prevent bad things. They help us to face them with faith and conviction.

Now you know.

Next episode, we will continue our conversation about risk myths.