

Security Briefs 056 – Risk Assessment Part 1

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Risk Assessment Is Not Unspiritual

Ed Nye the Security Guy here, and welcome to a brand-new series on Security Briefs. Over the next several episodes, we are going to talk about risk assessment.

Now, some of you may hear that phrase and immediately wonder — is this even spiritual? After all, if God has called us, shouldn't we simply obey, trust Him, and go? The answer is yes. We obey. We trust. We go. But that does not mean we stop thinking. And it certainly does not mean we ignore what is happening around us.

You may remember from our Risk Myth Busters series that we spent several episodes dismantling statements that sound scriptural but actually discourage wisdom. These myths share a common flaw: they use spiritual language to justify passive responses to real threats. Risk assessment is the antidote to that kind of passivity.

What the Bible Actually Says

Consider Nehemiah. He did not arrive at the broken walls of Jerusalem and say, "God will provide." He went out at night to inspect the walls himself. He assessed. He planned. And then he prayed — and posted a guard. Both. At the same time.

Or consider Jesus in Luke 14. Right in the middle of teaching about discipleship, he offers two parables about strategic planning. A man building a tower. A king going to war. Both asked the same question: did you sit down first and count the cost? That phrase — sit down — matters. Jesus is describing intentional, eyes-open discipleship, not impulsive action dressed up as faith.

Risk assessment is not anxiety. Anxiety is fear looping in our minds without direction or action. Assessment is different. It slows us down long enough to ask better questions: What is actually happening? What do we know and not know? What can we do wisely and faithfully? Done well, assessment does not replace prayer — it leads us to prayer. It does not replace courage — sometimes it is what gives us the courage to stay, and sometimes the courage to leave.

So let me define it simply: risk assessment is the disciplined process of understanding what could go wrong, how likely it is, how serious it could be, who is exposed, and what can be done about it.

To sum up: risk assessment is not fear dressed up as wisdom. It is faithful stewardship. We are called to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. This series is about learning how.

Now you know.

In our next episode, we will define the basic parts of risk assessment and talk about what we are actually assessing.

Episode Summary

This episode opens the Risk Assessment series by addressing the concern that assessment is unspiritual or fear-based. It frames risk assessment as faithful stewardship rooted in Scripture, distinguishing disciplined evaluation from anxiety and showing how wisdom supports obedience rather than replacing it.