6. We see this week that what we allow into our minds has a huge impact on how we respond to risky circumstances. God's priority-command to Joshua was to meditate on His word. How does focusing on the right information temper fear when it begins to mount in us? How does focusing on the truth of God's Word help us push back against fearful times?

Bringing it Home
1. Fear can stand as a barrier between where you're at and where God wants you to be. What are some of the fears about failing that are spiking in your heart these days? What do you think those fears might be keeping you from? What are your fears stopping you from moving forward with?

2. Looking back again at the objections that Moses, Gideon, and Jeremiah used, which did you say that you identified with most? How can you answer that objection now to remove it as a fear barrier in your life? What would you tell someone else who had that fear or objection in their life? How do you think God views your objection?

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The Fear of Failure
What Are You Afraid Of? – Week 1
April 14, 2013 ♦ Dr. David Jeremiah

Sermon Notes

Introduction

Exodus 3:11; 4:10; Judges 6:15; Jeremiah 1:6; Exodus 33:11; Joshua 17:16

I. The Principle of Divine Perspective - Joshua 1:5

II. The Principle of Divine Purpose - Joshua 1:2-4

III. The Principle of Divine Persuasion - Joshua 1:6, 7, 9; Numbers 13:31

IV. The Principle of Divine Priority - Joshua 1:7-8

A. Talk about it constantly. - Joshua 1:8

B. Meditate on it continually. - Joshua 1:8a; Psalm 119:97-100

C. Read it obediently. - Joshua 1:7, 8

D. Follow it exclusively. - Joshua 1:7

E. Accept it totally. - Joshua 1:8

V. The Principle of Divine Presence - Joshua 1:5, 9; Exodus 3:12; 4:12; Judges 6:16; Jeremiah 1:8, 19; Isaiah 41:10

VI. The Principle of Divine Prosperity - Joshua 1:5, 8

Conclusion

"God's commandments are God's enablements."
**Small Group Questions**

**Getting Started**

1. Have you ever known a big risk-taker? How would you describe them to someone else?

2. What’s the story behind the greatest risk you’ve ever taken? What was the risky decision? Why did you go for it? How did it turn out?

**Digging Deeper**

1. Some people seem to be natural risk takers, while others are paralyzed by it. How do you feel about taking risks? What do you see as the upside and downside of risk-taking? What if the risk-taking is a step of obedience to God; does that change anything for you?

2. Think about a risk-free life for a moment; what would it be like to live free of the risk of failing? How would you describe that kind of life? What do you think of the phrase “Nothing ventured, nothing gained”?

3. “Call narratives” are passages in the Bible where we read about God calling a person to a specific task. Are there some common call narratives (personal assignments) that we all share? Have you had any personal call narratives in your life, any specific assignments from God? How risky did those divine assignments feel to you?

4. Sometimes we respond to God’s direction in our lives with reluctance or objections. As a group, look back at the responses from Moses, Gideon, and Jeremiah and summarize their objections to God’s assignments.

   - Moses - Exodus 3:11; 4:1, 10, 13; 6:10-12
   - Gideon - Judges 6:15
   - Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:6

   Which of these responses/objections do you relate to most?

5. Let’s get specific now. How do the truths of these verses help us push back against fearful circumstances?

   - Joshua 1:9
   - Psalm 27:14
   - Isaiah 41:10
   - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
   - 1 Corinthians 15:9-11