



DANGEROUS FOR GOOD

A 7-day Plan

Adapted from
Search and Rescue: The Life and Love That Is Looking for You
by Michael Thompson

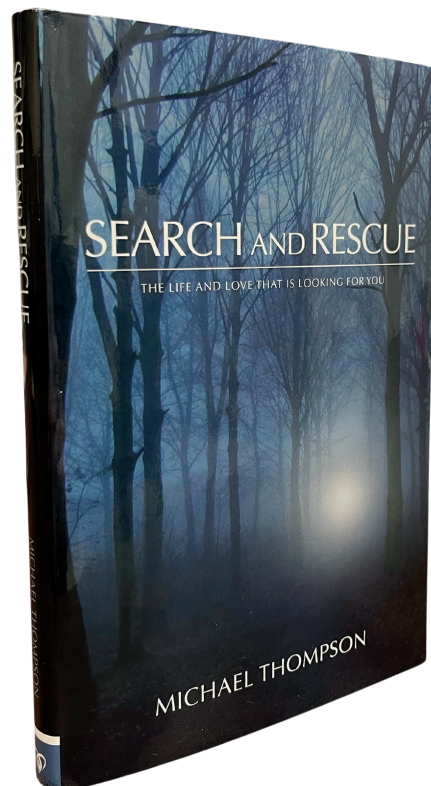


Dangerous for Good

Part 1: Orientation

Plan Description:

Why do we often settle for a passive, passionless life, when God promises life full and abundant? Answer: disorientation. Seeing and experiencing how it all works is how we receive an orientation from God that transforms drifting and passive image-bearers into Kingdom sons and daughters living dangerous for good.



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Day 1: More than Meets the Eye

Scripture:

1 Timothy 4:8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Luke 24:31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

Devotional:

In the 1984 film, *The Karate Kid*, Ralph Macchio plays Daniel, a New Jersey boy who is transplanted to Southern California. Early in the film, he learns the hard way that he doesn't fit in. When the local bullies attack him, his rescue comes in the unlikely form of his apartment's maintenance man, Mr. Miyagi. The day comes when Daniel needs Miyagi's karate training but instead of "karate" Miyagi puts Daniel to work on a list of chores like waxing cars, sanding the porch floors, painting a fence, and eventually painting the whole house. If you've seen the movie, you cannot forget "wax on, wax off." Frustrated with what seems to him to be a huge waste of time, Daniel follows the old man's instructions, supposing the chores are payment for his training. In a pivotal scene, Daniel's frustration with Miyagi finally explodes:

Daniel (to Mr. Miyagi): You're supposed to teach, and I'm supposed to learn. Four days I've been busting my #@*%, I haven't learned a thing.

Miyagi: You learn plenty.

Daniel: (sarcastically) I've learned to sand your decks. I've waxed your car, I paint your house, paint your fence.

Miyagi: Not everything is as seems.

Daniel: Oh, bull#@*%, man. I'm going home. (Daniel throws up his hands, turns and begins to walk away.)

Miyagi: Daniel-san...Daniel-san!

Daniel: (Daniel stops walking) What?

Miyagi: Come here. (Daniel returns. They are face to face.) Show me sand the floor.

Daniel: Sand the floor? (Daniel starts to go to his knees to sand floor)

Miyagi: Stand up. Show me sand the floor.

Daniel: Sand the floor? (Daniel shows sand the floor while bending down as if to sand the floor again with hands in circular motions and with a puzzled look on his face)

Miyagi: Get up. (Daniel stands up and shrugs in frustration and confusion.)

Miyagi: Sand the floor. Big circle. Sand the floor. Sand the floor. (Daniel does the floor sanding motions in the air.)

Miyagi: Now show me wax on, wax off.

Daniel: Wax on, wax off?

Miyagi: Wax on, wax off!

Daniel: Wax on...

Miyagi: ...wax off. Concentrate. Look in my eyes. Lock your hand, thumb inside. Wax on...wax off. Wax on...wax off. Show me paint the fence. Up, down. Up. Down. Up. Down. Other side. Look eye. Always look eye! (Daniel copies what Miyagi is showing him, still puzzled.)

Miyagi: Show me paint the house. Side, side. Lock wrist. Side, side. Side, side. (Miyagi then throws a series of slow punches and kicks.

Miyagi stands face-to-face with Daniel and throws a barrage of punches and kicks. Daniel blocks them all with his newfound "chore" techniques. Miyagi bows to Daniel. A bewildered and wide-eyed Daniel bows back and stands there dazed, but slowly beginning to comprehend the true heart of his teacher.

Miyagi: (looking Daniel in the eye) Come back tomorrow.

This is one of my favorite scenes in all the stories and films that move my heart. Why? Because it's my story, and I believe it just might be all our stories. I have misunderstood so much of what is truly taking place in my life. All too often, just like Daniel, I have failed to see the reality of my life, the bigger picture, the more-than-meets-the-eye that is going on inside

me and all around me. In order to become dangerous for good, we must be teachable, patient, and entrust our hearts to the one doing the teaching. Becoming oriented requires seeing more of the larger story going on around my story.

Just think if we could gain a true orientation and a real awareness of how God is working around us, in us, and with us every day. In doing so, it would transform our lost wanderings into a purposeful journey toward abundant life.

"Come back tomorrow."

As you ponder all this with God today, consider asking Him:

Father, looking back on my life, how have I misunderstood your training of me; what things have I misinterpreted and therefore I missed what you were inviting me to see?

Jesus, some things that have happened to me in my life haven't been good, and yet you promise to work all things out for the good (Romans 8:28). So where in my story do you want to bring healing and training from the wounding or hard parts of my journey?

Spirit, I want to be more and more oriented to the good you are up to in my life and see you moving and working in my life, to join you rather than resist you. Where are you currently moving to make me more and more like Jesus?

Day 2: The Larger Story

Scripture:

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Colossians 1:16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

Devotional:

All of us desire Life. We all long and search for validation, acceptance, significance, belonging and worth. Who doesn't want to be seen, invited, encouraged and applauded? Who doesn't want to belong? This desire is a wonderful thing—it is what we were made for. **The one word that encompasses all these longings, wants, hopes, and desires set deep in the human heart is Love.** When I say, I love you, I'm saying, I accept you. I want to be with you. You are significant to me. I see you.

We were designed, created, and crafted by God with a longing and a desire to love and be loved. This is one of the powerful ways we bear His image. His invitation is to come to Him for the fulfillment of our heart's deepest needs and desires.

The Two Kingdoms, the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness, wage war over our hearts because they know if you capture a person's heart, you capture the person. The rulers and authorities of the Two Kingdoms are advancing on each of us and are in conflict with one another.

One Kingdom offers Life, and the other offers death. It would be wonderful if these two options were as obviously different as they are so obviously opposed. But it isn't always easy to tell the difference. **One is True Life, but the other is a lie, masquerading as life.** It is a matter of authentic versus counterfeit. **The kingdom of darkness wants you to accept its substitutes for love and life to keep us from True Love and Life.**

What if we could enter the fight and tip the scale of the war by aiding one Kingdom in the battle for our hearts? This is our opportunity, and what the King of the Good Kingdom is offering us. The God of the universe desires that we give him our hearts so that He might fill them with True Love and Real Life.

The enemy of God comes after God's Image bearers to thwart that. We were made for intimacy, oneness, and connectedness with God. We feel most alive when we are being loved. Our enemy knows this better than we do. He knows where and in whom Life is found. Our adversary is launching an all-out assault to get in the way of our intimacy with God and intimacy with others. In Matthew 22:37, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to Love God and love others as yourself. There is a reason this is called the greatest command, and there is a reason we are never more opposed than when we seek to fulfill it.

Love makes us come alive because Love is the greatest thing in the whole universe. Love is what we were meant for, and love is what God is all about. When we get ahold of this—or when it gets ahold of us—the tide changes, the momentum shifts, and the lost ground of our hearts will be taken back.

The great mission of God is upon us. Becoming dangerous for good is our best way to enter into our part to play.

Like Daniel in The Karate Kid, we need the eyes of our heart to be awakened to what is truly going on, to the deep heart training God is calling us into, to the invitation to be WITH him, in his love, and on mission with him in life. He is calling us up: to be Dangerous for Good with him.

As you ponder all this with God today, ask Him:

Father, where are you loving me today, showing me your acceptance, inviting me to belong to you, validating and bestowing worth to me?

Jesus, how has the kingdom of darkness been hijacking my life, blocking me from receiving the love you intended for me? How have I given in, participated in any way, to their schemes to compromise my true orientation as a kingdom image bearer?

Spirit, being loved by you is central to loving others. Would you come for my heart today, in some way to show and tell me how you see me, who I am to you, or what it is about me that you love? I open my heart and my eyes and ears to seeing and hearing what you want to say.

Day 3: Reoriented

Scripture:

Luke 17:33 Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.

Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

2 Peter 3:14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with him.

Devotional:

We have lost a lot of things on life's journey ... specifically: who we are, where we are, and the good that God is up to in our lives. When any or all of these components of life's journey get lost, it shows. Oh, we might try to cover it up or declare with a shaky confidence: "I'm all right. It's just a flesh wound."

I believe that most people live disoriented lives. The overarching reason is that **we have underestimated everything**. We've underestimated **our value and worth**. We've underestimated **the villain in our story** and just how real evil is. We have misunderstood and underestimated **the great God who is the hero** in our story. And we have little or no clue as to how His Kingdom operates here and now. We've underestimated all the characters and all the themes of not only our own story but the Larger Story that our story has been dropped into.

We can see the sad effects of our overarching underestimation. Simply take a look around. It's killing us. Consider all the confusion, suffering, discomfort and inconvenience we seem to live with every day. **We settle for this rather than the joy, happiness, peace and rest our hearts long for and which seem to be at the top of God's promised benefit package.**

Is there really Abundant Life?

Where? When? Why is there such a discrepancy between the life that we long for and the life we settle for? Why is one the usual and the other the occasional exception?

In the story of God, the work of Christ was not merely to die for our sins—though that is a very good thing, as far as the East is from the West. ***The offer of God by the work of Christ is far more than just forgiveness. It is Life. An abundant, full, and super-sized Life!*** God desires something for our hearts and lives that is significantly more expansive than forgiving us and sending us on our way.

Far too many Christians believe that the offer of God is only some great pardon, accompanied by a heavy-handed rule book for our time of parole, all in an attempt to make sure we don't do it again or else! Yes, the cross and forgiveness are great things, significant things to be sure, but if that is what the Gospel has been reduced to, ***then we have settled for a gospel that is too small.*** And when we settle, the oriented life is compromised and instead of being dangerous for good, we just try to not sin.

The cross is just a part of the whole story. Now, I can just imagine the raised eyebrows... Good. I've got your attention. ***Look at it this way; forgiveness is the beginning, the toll booth, and God pays the toll so we can move forward on the road to more Love, more Life, and more Freedom. We're not to stay parked at the toll booth.*** The cross is how we can now enjoy what we were made for, the Life and Love of God. The payment made so we can join Him on the great adventure of Life. The Life that is now, and the Life that awaits us. ***Can you imagine what it would be like to be rescued, healed, restored, and turned loose to be fully alive?*** That is what dangerous for good is all about! And now on a great mission, in a grand partnership, with God?

In the next few days, I want to offer encouragement and guidance for the glorious things that come next. Think of it as a forecast of the further up and further in. After the initial search and rescue of our hearts comes something so beautiful and so wonderful a couple of devotionals won't do it justice. But these devotionals can spur us on and give us the awareness and orientation we need to participate and partner with God in His great recovery and restoration of our lives.

As you ponder all this with God today, consider asking Him:

Father, I don't want to underestimate you, my life, the enemy, or the Larger Story my story is in... what are the ways I have settled for simple, manageable, or been disoriented?

Jesus, in what way have I settled for lingering at the toll booth of forgiveness? How would seeing your offer of more shape my orientation and invite me to become more free?

Spirit, I want to become dangerous for good and invite you to show me a life beyond forgiveness to a life fully alive ... what are the first steps in my journey to more love, life, and freedom?

Day 4: Spiritual Sight

Scripture:

John 14:26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

1 Sam 16:7 The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Mark 8:18 Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Devotional:

Jesus' life, His teachings and ministry often centered on detangling skewed perceptions and perspectives; **helping people see more clearly** *where they are, who they are, and how God's Kingdom works*. Jesus often said to anyone willing to have ears to hear, "Listen up! You've got most of your life wrong. Let me tell you about the condition you are really in, the place where you really live, and what God is really like. **The Father wants you to know His deep love for you. You can do more than just survive. Let me help you see.** Let me help you hear. Let me help you discover life at its fullest."

I was talking recently with a friend who was struggling with difficult life circumstances. He was so close to his own story and its drama that he doesn't see the situation clearly, but the truth is painfully obvious to his friends who are observing it from the outside. How could he not see what everyone else seems to know? And I have a version of this condition when it comes to my life. We are all driven to frustration when we encounter these kinds of blind spots. When it's my own life that is the source of frustration and I'm the one not seeing clearly, I'm the one in the dark, and I'm the one causing the problem or the pain, that's when the feelings of embarrassment, guilt, and shame win the day. In so many of those ah-ha moments, we look back and say, "How could I not have seen that ... I wish I had known." Haven't we all, with a hint of regret, wished we knew then what we know now?

We're not alone. Throughout history, people have been shortsighted and prone to missing the point and unable to see what was unfolding around them. This was certainly true in Jesus' day. He was misunderstood, misplaced, and mishandled by many. ***His rescue mission took Him into a hostile environment. He knew all along that the stakes were unimaginably high and that the cost to Him would be everything.***

Sadly, even those closest to Him did not or could not grasp the magnitude of God's plan unfolding in front of them. It's as if they were under a spell. Jesus labored to open their eyes, but it was only in hindsight that His friends saw clearly and His efforts took root in their souls.

What if we could see the whole world and Larger Story as Jesus described it? What if we could know our place in it, how the world really works, its dimensions, and the reality of its objectives (life vs. death)? What if we could know all this and possess the wisdom and ability to go beyond mere survival and thrive? I don't believe that in this life our ability to see fully will be accomplished, that all the "blindness" will be removed. ***We cannot achieve any clarity on our own, but the degree of clarity we can have in this life comes from the Father through training, initiation, and validation that He alone can provide.*** And I believe this clarity is supposed to be the norm, rather than the rare exception. That is why ***we need the Holy Spirit*** (as described in John 14-17) ***to guide, teach, comfort, and counsel us.*** There is a way to "see" that only God offers—a vision with origins deeper than a physical 20/20. Because we are spiritual (eternal) beings on a physical journey, we will need spiritual eyes to make the journey well. We must find our true ability to see so we can see with the eyes of the heart. It is through these eyes that we will be able to see more fully all that we are, all that is around us, and more of the One who loves us most and offers us Life.

To be dangerous for good we must see as C.S. Lewis once wrote, ***"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but also because by it I see everything else."***

As Jesus trained his friends to be dangerous for good, he often accompanied an important teaching about the Kingdom with the statement "For those who have eyes to see let him see, or ears to hear, let him hear ... Jesus is inviting them to engage their eyes to see and their ears to hear in a certain way and from a certain orientation so they can come to correct conclusions and significant understandings. Such engagement will change their life forever.

As you ponder all this with God today, consider asking Him:

Father, is there anything in the way of my receiving your love? Of my being loved by you? How do my beliefs about myself or my perspective or beliefs about you help or hinder my ability to receive your love?

Jesus, you were and still are dangerous for good. You are the example and the invitation. Would you show and tell me what I'm not seeing and how to see who you truly are and what you want to redeem and restore within me?

Spirit, where and how do you want to guide, teach, comfort, or counsel me today? What is taking place in my life through which you are inviting me into healing or training (or both) in the ways of the Kingdom?

Day 5: Beliefs Matter

Scripture:

Romans 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to Him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Mark 11:23 “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.

John 14:1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.”

Devotional:

For the longest time, I believed that God was mad at me. Maybe it was the churches I was brought up in, how I heard and felt the gospel that was presented to me, or maybe how my parents raised me, and other authority figures who were angry, and I believed it was me. It is very difficult to love someone or be loved by someone whom you believe is mad at you.

What you believe matters—it matters a whole lot. What you believe is the currency of the kingdom. We all have belief, faith, and hope to invest and to spend. Handling your beliefs is very much like wealth management; how you spend and invest your beliefs will accumulate over time. They can bring debt, or they can bring equity; it's hard to tell what they will produce on the day you're signing the papers, just like a lot of investments.

Everyone on the planet believes something. Even believing there is nothing or no one to believe in is a belief. We may use other terms for it: attitudes, perspectives, beliefs, or persuasions. The words I think can be a clue for spotting beliefs. Not always, but usually, you can swap the words “I think,” with “I believe.” But the weightier of the two terms is belief. When I start a sentence with the words, “I

believe," rather than, "I think," it seems to make what I'm about to say more significant:

I think that the chicken tastes better than the beef.

versus

I believe that the chicken tastes better than the beef.

I think you are the one I should marry.

versus

I believe you are the one I should marry.

I think you can do this.

Versus

I believe you can do this.

Which is true? When I slow down and take an extra second before voicing my thoughts or opinions, I simply ask my heart, "Is this what I think or is this what I believe?" The lighter things in my world usually are best offered or shared with, "I think." The moments in my life when I have conviction, commitment, or a weightier sense that "this is true" are moments and circumstances when I upgrade to, "I believe."

What you and I "believe" matters. It really matters. And this is the dangerous proposition that creates either disoriented or oriented image bearers dangerous to others and themselves or dangerous for good.

Here's my point: The two Kingdoms know we have this currency of belief to spend or invest. The economy is organized and orchestrated by God to operate this way. What we believe has repercussions; it has literal benefits or consequences based on how we spend it and where we invest it for Life. It has so much impact that what we believe actually has authority in our lives.

Tomorrow, I will share with you how one false belief had a lasting impact on my life for decades.

As you ponder all this with God today, consider asking Him:

Father, how have I seen you? Is there anything I am believing about you that isn't true? That you are angry, distant, or don't have time for me?

Jesus, there is so much good to see, understand, and believe about you. Where do you want to take me in my journey of belief about who you are and what you have done for me? How do you want to expand my belief that you are good and are for me?

Spirit, would you take me on a journey of my beliefs? Would you show me what I'm believing that is good and true and any lies I might be believing that are in the way of receiving and then offering love?

Day 6: Reinterpreting Suffering

Scripture:

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Devotional:

I lived a long time with a lie lodged in my heart, a wrong belief and philosophy regarding trials in my life. Let's call trials what they really are, inconveniences, things not going the way I want them to. For many years, I believed these inconveniences were God's way of showing me how far I had to go. I thought God was either getting even with me or punishing me with these inconveniences. I wanted a download of relief and comfort, I didn't want to talk with God about the issues in my life, but rather wanted Him to just fix things. I wanted him to make things smoother, and easier, so I could get on with my life and not be so inconvenienced.

When you live in a small story that revolves around you, it is more than easy to misinterpret God and circumstances, it is inevitable. This is what disorientation looks like and it has never been pretty in my life. I was dangerous, but not for good.

The truth is that God is not inconveniencing me. ***He is inviting me to participate with Him in the great mission of my life, training me for the mission, and equipping me to walk with Him in oneness, intimacy, and connectedness.*** Walking intimately connected to the Father is a large mission in a Larger Story. And it requires a large step of faith to know that things are not always as they seem. Just because things aren't going well in my life doesn't mean they aren't going according to plan. In the stories of those in the Bible, things often got worse before they got better. The

Peter in the gospels is a different man than the Peter who wrote First and Second Peter. Oh, he is the same guy—but not the same guy; he's changed. Thirty years of walking with God will do that; it will make you different. That's my hope—same ol' me—but different. **Too often we believe the subtle lie our enemy tells us: If something is successful, it must be of or from God. If it is not successful, then it is not from God, and something is wrong.** But that is not what the stories of the Bible tell us. What looks like a horrible failure to us may be a success in God's eyes. Was Jesus' brutal death by crucifixion a failure?

Many of the stories in the Bible would have found an editor's trash can if the stories were meant to be a collection of human successes. The Bible is a collection of stories about God, not us. He is the center of the story, and yet we are crucial to the whole of it. Why? Because the One in the center of the story says so. It comes back to this: **Do we trust the heart of the Father for us and toward us?** Trials and struggles have a huge purpose and benefit in our training and maturing. **This is the good that God is up to in our lives. Training us and growing us up into an image**—the glorious one we had originally before sin entered the world. That image is the one He is restoring. The image we are being conformed to is that of Christ Jesus himself. (Ephesians 1:11).

He showed us how to live and invites us to a life He is empowering us to live. We follow his example and overcome and become. Learning to live as He did, dangerous for good, this is the invitation of God, the one He is committed to deliver to the doorstep of our hearts, again, and again and again. Open the door, receive the gift of trials and inconvenience, and know that God is up to good in you so you can be up to good through him in a world that needs more goodness.

As you ponder all this with God today, consider asking Him:

Father, what events or circumstances have I believed to be inconvenient as opposed to an invitation to work with you, to move and enter into the struggles with you?

Jesus, how has the enemy corrupted my ability to see my life and circumstances? How is the enemy working against me to move in ways that will make me move in unloving and unkind ways?

Spirit, I long to trust you, even when it doesn't come easy. What is the good you are up to in my life? How are you inviting me to trust you in the events and circumstances unfolding in my day to day?

Day 7: Invitation to Take Your Place

Scripture:

Proverbs 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (MSG) And you, Solomon my son, get to know well your father's God; serve him with a whole heart and eager mind, for God examines every heart and sees through every motive. If you seek him, he'll make sure you find him.

Jeremiah 29:12-13 (MSG) When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. "When you come looking for me, you'll find me. "Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed.

John 4:23 (AMP) A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers.

Hebrews 11:6 (MSG) It is impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that He cares enough to respond to those who seek him.

Devotional:

The number of life's moments that I have misunderstood, mishandled, mislabeled, and misdiagnosed along my journey (not to mention in the lives and journeys of others) is so large that it's embarrassing. About twenty years ago, I had a change of heart that has since saved me time and time again. Awakened to the Two Realms and Two Kingdoms, I've learned to slow down. Living slowly offers the invitation to ask questions of God. When an awkward situation arises, I ask, "What is this, God?" And I ask questions of others, "What did you mean when you said that? Could you give me an example of what you mean?" Slowing down doesn't change the actual speed or busyness of life, but it gives me the ability to call a "time out" or anticipate two steps ahead. When I am living more aware, more oriented, and more engaged in the Larger Story, moments of time can seem to be suspended, even lingering.

At times answers aren't always obvious. It seems God conceals things from us.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. Proverbs 25:2

There is something revealed about the heart of God in this proverb. Why would God conceal a matter? Why would He play such a seemingly mean trick? **God desires to be sought after**, and He paints light brushstrokes of this character trait on the canvas of Scripture. (see the verses for this day of the reading plan)

God doesn't need to be sought after and pursued; He desires to be. Yes, love and intimacy are aimed at an object, the object of His affection. I used to think that God oozed love, and if I could get in its path, I might enjoy some. But now I know I am certain I am the target of His love and He seeks after me constantly. How remarkable. Jesus, The Lion of Judah wants me and is after me? How amazing! This is how we become dangerous for good, being loved by God.

In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis describes the great love God has for his people and the cost of making it possible:

"The happiness which God designs for His higher creatures is the happiness of being freely, voluntarily united to Him and to each other in an ecstasy of love and delight compared to the most rapturous love between a man and a woman on this earth ... And for that they must be free."

Love and risk cannot be separated. We set ourselves out there wanting, desiring, and hoping for someone to love us. Guarded, but hopeful. That describes me when I proposed to my wife. I went out on a limb, and took a chance, hoping she would accept my love and offer of marriage. The risk paid off, I did not regret it, and the memory of that moment will last a lifetime.

Now, if God is inviting me into a moment, then I want to step into it —whether He calls me to come with Him to a quiet place or to go with Him on a search and rescue mission. If He is inviting me into a moment to be still, I'm in. Being together is the hope and desire, His and mine, no matter what the outcome might be. Whether the outcome is failure or success. **It's about being with Him. Intimacy can be a dangerous proposition with its invitation to vulnerability and any concerns I might have of being seen and then pushed away. All of us have experienced rejection or betrayal, but that is the opposite of God and His love. God's love pursues, never rejects. I believe that is why the early disciples became men and women to whom Jesus could entrust his power and authority, equipping his friends to love. That is what dangerous for good is all about, being loved so we can love others.**

As you ponder all this with God today, consider asking Him:

Father, I want to make more and more time to pull away and be loved. How, when, and where do you want to meet me?

Jesus, thank you for pursuing me and inviting me to move toward you in life-giving ways. What are the ways in which you have been and are now pursuing me? Give me eyes to see and ears to hear how you're pursuing me in worship music, teaching, scripture, solitude, or more.

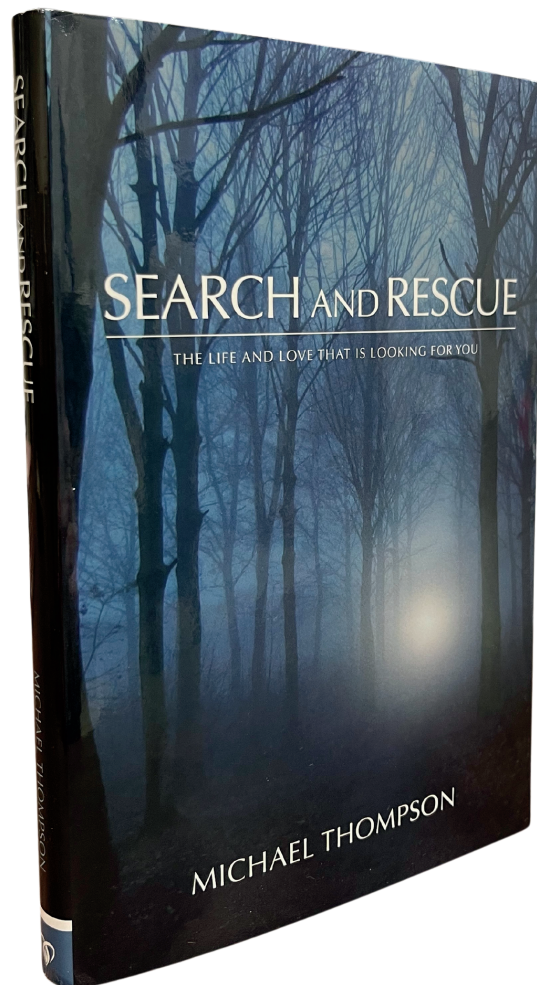
Spirit, what do you desire to produce in me? To heal within me? To equip and entrust to me to make me dangerous for good?

If you enjoyed this devotional...

Check out the book it comes from:

When people get lost, there is a shockwave released within a family or a community and anyone and everyone is recruited to join in the massive search and rescue. Why so large an upgrade of emotions when people are lost? It is because of the priceless value of relationships and the significance they hold for life.

This is what has happened in our story. We all get lost, and this is the backdrop of Search and Rescue: The Life and Love That Is Looking for You... are you ready to be found?!



You can find the book at
<https://www.zoweh.org/search-and-rescue>

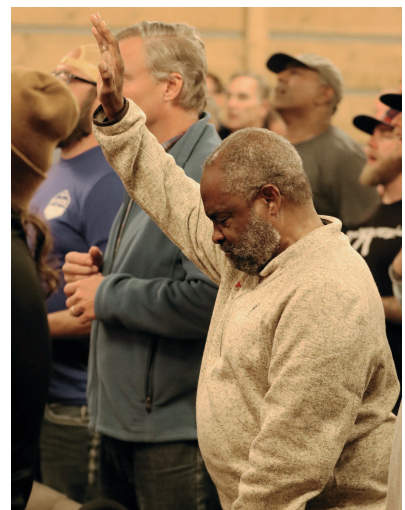


CONSIDER HOSTING OR GOING TO A



DISCOVER **WHO** YOU ARE, **WHERE** YOU ARE,
AND **THE GOOD** THAT GOD IS UP TO IN YOUR LIFE.

A Dangerous For Good Men's Summit is designed to be a catalyst event for the hearts of men in your church or community, inviting them to encounter God in a way that validates and initiates them along their masculine journey of becoming more oriented men.



YOU CAN FIND MORE DETAILS AT
<https://www.zoweh.org/dfgsummit>