

# The Danger in Playing It Safe

John Shepherd  
February 20, 2008

What is the most dangerous object in your house?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Narratives: Biblical Encounters between God and Human Beings**

## 1. God \_\_\_\_\_ Somebody to Do Something

Examples: Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Paul

Hebrews 11:32-39

*What more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.*

*Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging,"--these are real people--"while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawn in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated--the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.*

## 2. The Person \_\_\_\_\_

In almost every case, the person's initial response is \_\_\_\_\_.

- Sometimes, it is a fear of \_\_\_\_\_.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_ in Judges 6

- Sometimes, it is a fear of \_\_\_\_\_.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

If you're not facing any challenges too big for you right now, if it's been a long time since you've been scared, it's real possible that you've grown too comfortable in your faith.

### 3. God Gives a \_\_\_\_\_

Judges 6:12

*“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”*

Joshua 1:9

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged. For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

II Corinthians 11:24-27

*Five times I received from the Jews the 40 lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods”--this is a real person--“once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own people, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst, and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.*

Romans 8:38-39

*I am convinced that nothing--height nor depth, angels nor demons, powers nor principalities, danger, nakedness, famine, sword—nothing is able to separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Greg Levoy: “Jesus promised those who would follow Him only three things: that they would be absurdly happy, entirely fearless, and almost always in trouble.”
--

### 4. The Person Makes a \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. The Person’s Life Is \_\_\_\_\_

Peter and John in Acts 4:5-13

Rich young ruler in Matthew 19:16-26