

So what is the risk of following our own way, "doing it my way", in this life? The risk is "even if you gain everything, you will lose your own soul". Addiction, obsession, will be part of your life in this life. Look at the "A list" people obsessed with outward appearance, "Money has not bought them love", they go from crisis to crisis. At the end of your life you will have lost your soul for ever.

Jesus said "If any one will come and follow me let him deny himself" Yes, denying yourself and following Jesus. He gives joy and peace, He gives eternal life. It really is the safest way to live, as Jesus saves our souls from all the dangers of this life. He gives us His life. Jesus saw the risks for all of us and that is why He came and why He died. He loves us and cares for us, He has no desire that we should be destroyed.

Carry out your own risk assessment on your soul. Look at your own life. Where are you going? Are you losing your soul? If so, turn to Jesus, receive Him. He will save your soul in this life and that which is to come, because He loves you. He put you before Himself, because He calculated that without Him you would be lost. See His love for you and come to Him and find the perfect place of safety for your soul.

Mark. Ch 8. verse .36

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?



Dear Lord Jesus

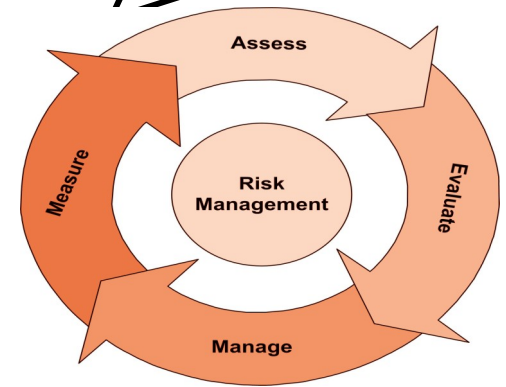
Thank you for helping me when I could not help myself. I confess to you that I have sinned and done things against the will of God. Please forgive me and cleanse me from all my sin. Please come into my heart and change me so that I can truly serve you for the rest of my life. I realise that without you I have no hope in this world but that with you I have eternal life

Lord Jesus thank you. I now belong to you and I rejoice in you as my Saviour and can now truly call you Lord. Amen

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At Risk?

What is the Risk?

What is the Risk?

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► Risk? At Risk? What is the Risk?

Risk assessments are the order of the day. With Health and Safety Issues being considered so important, risk analysis has become a necessary requirement in all walks of life. Much is to be applauded as the increase in safety in the work place provides a better working environment for many, with a reduced risk of industrial injuries, that at one time were so common place.

Many complain though that it has all gone too far and restricts the liberty of many, in what would be normal pastimes. Flower arrangements are removed from town centres in case they fall on someone, when it has never happened before. Remembrance Day marches are cancelled, or at least threatened with closure, due to the prohibitive costs of the risk assessments; again for years they have passed off without incident. "Conkers" are banned from school playgrounds and school trips are reduced in number, because of the risks and possible legal action. It always seems that the very worst possible scenario is considered when assessing the risk and deciding on the precautions that have to be taken to manage that perceived risk. Yes, it is all very complicated and costs a lot of money, and finds lucrative employment for many "risk assessors"

Everything is done to protect our bodies from the risk of injury or even death, things of which people are really afraid. The "Nanny State" tries to put us all in "cotton wool" and provide as much

safety as possible. There is a culture of fear, not one of trust and faith, as the hope people have in God's care for us disappears from our country.

At the same time we live in a permissive society. There is a culture of "Have what you want whatever the consequences". Greed is the order of the day! For example, there is a huge increase in promiscuity among all ages, sexually transmitted diseases are rife, so while as a society we protect at one level, we fail to protect at others. These



things only relate to our bodies but what about our souls, the real us, the people who lives inside our bodies? Where is the protection, the safety for my soul? Many of the desires, (lusts is a good word too), the strong urges that people follow, lead them into damage to them self as a person. These things fight against the soul, they damage the person. How? Because it is necessary to "harden the heart" when you go against your conscience of what is wrong. It happens every time we tell a lie, when we are dishonest. Every time we follow our desire against our morality. In the end our conscience dies

off, there is no protection any more, our own internal risk assessment device ceases to function. It seems as if the whole of society has forgotten the risk of following "the devices and desires of our own hearts". There are so many things available which damage our souls,

Jesus came up with a really "scary" scenario. "What does it benefit someone if they gain the whole world and lose their own soul"? He saw the risks involved in people following their own wills and not the will of God. He had an understanding of eternal things, looking beyond this life to that which is to come. If there is no life after this life then, yes, "Eat, drink, be merry", enjoy yourself, but if your soul will live for ever then selfish behaviour can only lead to disaster. How do we know? Well Jesus said "that He came to give us eternal life, to die for us so that we should not perish, we should not lose our souls". He rose again to prove there is life after this life. Look and be honest. Is there long term joy in following our own desires? Things just lead from bad to worse. Addiction, to whatever takes hold of us, is what it is called. Something we cannot break out of. Many, for example, are hooked on drugs, alcohol, gambling, possessions, shopping etc., They have lost their souls, themselves, to their addiction.

