

“You Almighty” – A Personal Challenge

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What would you do if God asked you to do something crazy? No, I'm serious! How would you respond to a Divine directive of a deranged sort? After all, God does have a track record for the spectacular and the outrageous. Just look it up to find examples of men and women such as Elijah, Jeremiah, Moses, Daniel, Deborah, Mary, and a myriad of others who have been instructed by God to do seemingly psychotic stuff. But every time, the lesson is learned anew that God knows what He is doing. As the scripture teaches "God's lowest thoughts are higher than man's best wisdom".

My wife Shelley and I just got out of seeing a movie at the theater that carried that theme; Evan Almighty. In the film, an otherwise successful guy and newly elected congressman went and prayed a prayer that would change his life. This husband and dad was elected with a campaign slogan to "Change The World". After his wife's encouragement, Evan decided to do something he had apparently never done before "pray for help from God". He wanted to make a difference and it was Evan that was the first to be transformed. To say that the way God answers our prayer is not always how we would design would be an understatement of epic proportions.

I can't remember laughing that hard in a movie in a really long time. Many scenes had me in stitches. I don't know if it was just that I was really in a good mood or that I felt a heart level connection to the main character and the many messages in the film. I know what it is like to feel that God wants me to do crazy stuff! I know what it is to have one's sanity questioned by others in your pursuit of God. I can relate to having highly developed career paths only to discover that the thing is off course of God's plan.


The storyline was full of practical messages: Everything God does is because He loves us so much. Husbands and wives stick together no matter how great the opposition; two by two. Everything is better when children stick with their father and the whole family is united. Obey God no matter what others think. God doesn't always answer your prayer the way you expect, He does it better. Changing the world means starting at home with simple asks of kindness. This list goes on.

Early in the movie Evan's wife had prayed that they and their boys would get closer as a family. I guess she didn't fully know what she was asking for. She learned at the end that this is exactly what was

happening. In one scene God explained that when you ask for patience, He doesn't give you patience but an opportunity to be patient. When you ask for compassion, He doesn't give you compassion but an opportunity to be compassionate. When you ask that your family be closer together, He doesn't make your family closer but gives you an opportunity to grow closer. I felt like the movie preached two dozen important messages for those seeking answers, while those that aren't will probably see just another family film, while keeping you laughing the whole way.

In short, this is one of the very few movies that I feel good about recommending. And yet, my article is not so much intended to be a movie review as it is a thought launcher. If you check it out for yourself, watch closely for the themes, lessons, and principles that are presented. Do you think they are biblical? Does the film represent your understanding of God accurately? At the end of the movie, God danced with Evan in a victory celebration. Do you think God would do that? Is He that accessible, approachable, and real? Does God have a sense of humor? Although all-powerful and all knowing, would the "Almighty" treat you as a friend? And if God wanted to answer your prayer, would you be ready? So I finish where I started with my personal challenge. What would you do if God asked you to do something crazy?

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