



## A DEFINING MOMENT

by Vincent M. Newfield

Every life has its defining moments—those critical crossroads when a decision is made that affects us the rest of our lives. One of my greatest defining moments came through a conversation I had in April 1995, about three months after my wife, Allison, returned to work after giving birth to our first-born daughter Victoria.

Allison was thrilled to be a mother and deeply desired to stay at home and raise Victoria. At the time, however, I was self-employed and our business was struggling. Consequently, we were living off Allison's salary. As much as she longed to stay at home, I couldn't see how we would survive. So in submission to my leadership, she went back to work.

### MOTIVATED BY FEAR

Unfortunately, my decision was not Spirit-led—it was “head-led.” Yes, I had prayed about what to do, but my mind couldn't get past the financial factor. FEAR blocked my way, and out of FEAR, I made my decision. From that point on, things went downhill. For weeks, Allison cried all the way to work. To cope with her emotions, she began to tell herself, *Well, I guess this is what God has for me. I must be a working Mom.*

Meanwhile, I was trying to play “Mr. Mom,” run my business and clean the house. Needless to say, I was failing and feeling miserable. The phone had also stopped ringing, bringing business to a standstill. With each passing day, I became more and more frustrated and depressed. Unaware of it at the time, Allison was losing respect for me because *I was doing what she yearned to do.* Numbness in our relationship set in, and our communication was virtually cut off. Our marriage was in trouble.

### A LIFE-CHANGING CONVERSATION

In His mercy, God sent a friend our way—a pastor friend named Bob Martin. Having deep respect for His godly wisdom, I shared my frustrations with him, especially the struggles I was having with the business since Allison had returned to work. After giving him a brief overview, he turned to me and responded with words I will never forget.

In his bold “tell-it-like-it-is” way, Pastor Bob said, “Vincent, Allison needs to come home, and you need to do whatever you need to do to provide for your family. God is faithful. You need to trust Him.” His God-ordained words cut me like a knife. Even though I mentally couldn't figure out how we would make it, I knew in my heart he was right; Allison needed to come home.

I asked God to forgive me for being motivated by fear and confirm I had made the right decision by blessing our business. Well, Allison gave her notice the next day, and within one week, God miraculously brought in over \$5,000 in sales—something that had never happened before. God is faithful!

### THE BOTTOM LINE

Don't let fear motivate or influence your decisions. Pray and get God's heart in every matter. If need be, seek godly counsel from a trusted friend. As Proverbs 11:14 says, *Where no wise guidance is, the people fall, but in the multitude of counselors there is safety!*

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