



## Monday Matters

April 22, 2013

### What Will You Give Up?

What are you willing to give up to follow Jesus? This week I was reading an article in the Southeast Outlook about Nabeel Qureshi and what he lost as a result of following Jesus. Below are parts of that article written by Ruth Schenk. In the world we live in it is becoming harder and harder to follow Jesus. Over the years I am certain we have heard of instances in China, the Middle East, etc. But even here in America we are experiencing persecution for our faith.

Nabeel was born in California to a family of Pakistani immigrants that he describes as the Islamic "Leave it to Beaver" family and was taught to be the best Muslim he could be. Even as a 5-year-old, he prayed and read the Koran in Arabic. "I loved Islam with all my heart," he said. "Islam was not just my religion, it was my whole structure of life."



### "I Surrender All" Clay Crosse

### Quote of the Week

"God has landed on this enemy-occupied



As Qureshi grew up, he learned how to defend his Muslim faith from those who would try to convert him to Christianity. He even learned about Jesus. "The Koran tells me that Jesus was born of a virgin," Qureshi said. "I knew He healed the sick, but He did not die on the cross. Nor did He raise from the dead. I also knew that Jesus is not God."

In 2001, Qureshi joined the debate team in college and met David Wood. When others went out drinking and clubbing, the two stayed behind. Qureshi's faith taught him to live above reproach. Wood stayed home because he was a Christian. Qureshi had never seen a Christian reading the Bible, and he had never met anyone like Wood. Their friendship grew as they debated Christianity versus Islam. Wood challenged Qureshi to study the accuracy of the New Testament.

For the next year, Qureshi grappled with the truth about the Bible and Jesus, examining the historical evidence of Greek New Testaments from early times and concluded that the Bible was the Word of God. He then studied the crucifixion and resurrection as Muslims do not believe that Jesus did rise from the dead and after intense study he was convinced that Jesus did rise from the dead.

Next, Qureshi turned a critical eye to Islam. "I was taught as a child that Mohammed is the best of everything," he said. "Then I studied his life. I realized I had been taught a 20th century reconstruction. Mohammed's second marriage was to a 6-year-old girl when he was 49 years old. It was consummated three years later. Because of this, young girls around the world are given in marriage. This practice of Mohammed is wrong."

world in human form. The perfect surrender and humiliation was undergone by Christ: perfect because He was God, surrender and humiliation because He was man."

~C.S. Lewis~

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## **Monday Matters**

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**"Pasture Politics"**

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## **Nabeel Qureshi**

Nabeel has a medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School, a master's degree in Christian apologetics from Biola University and a master's degree in religion from Duke University.

He is an author of "Understanding Islam and Reaching Muslims" and speaks at universities and churches across America.

To learn more about Nabeel, click on this link [Nabeel Qureshi](#).

He prayed, "God, if you are Allah or if you are Jesus, I want to know." He had to be sure of the truth because the cost of following Jesus is great in the Muslim world. "I knew then that accepting Jesus meant I would give up my life and my family," Qureshi said. "Saying that something other than Allah is God is the unforgivable sin. If you believe that Jesus is God, Muslims believe it is a ticket to hell."

Qureshi studied Matthew 5 - 10 and understood what he must do. He knelt on the floor and asked Jesus into his life. Nothing has been the same since. His family still grieves. "When I told my father, my superman, I felt a depth of pain I've never felt before. I asked God why He didn't just kill me," Qureshi said. "But by then, everything had changed. When I saw someone walking down the street, I saw someone my God was willing to die for. He died for us while we were still His enemies. That's good news that everyone should hear."

Today, his passion is to share truth.

How willing are we to give up everything to follow Christ? Matthew 16:24 in the Amplified Version  
**"Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself [disregard, lose sight of, and forget himself and his own interests] and take up his cross and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying, also]."**