

Have you ever faced something that was really hard to do? About 21 years ago, I bought a car a 1940 Nash Lafayette. It was sitting in the dirt and the front fenders, hood and running boards were missing. I ended up buying it and the guy loaded it onto a trailer with a fork lift. When I got it home, I tied one of my extra Javelin rear ends onto the rear springs with twine and took the front tires of my Javelin and put them onto the Nash. I called somebody to come over and we picked up the front of the car and rolled it off the trailer. I didn't have a clue as to what I was getting myself into but I was excited.

Fast forward a few years and it had full suspension under it and moved pretty well as long as you pushed it. When we were in Texas, it pretty much sat because I just didn't have time to mess with anything and the garage was small.

When we came to Salina and we were looking for a house, Heidi was actually looking at the house and I was checking out the garage. We each had our own priorities. Once we got settled, I started looking at the old Nash once again and figuring out what the next step would be. I figured that a tilt front end where the hood and fenders are welded together and tilt forward would be needed because I could not reach the top of the motor because of all of the sheet metal. And that intimidated me. I did buy some plans for doing a tilt front end and checked out various hinges from semis but nothing quite fit in my thinking.

So rather than embrace the challenge and jump in with both feet, the car went into an old machine shed and sat there for maybe the last 9 or 10 years. I wasn't sure how to tackle the job so I turned around and went in the opposite direction.

Have any of you done something similar? Has there ever been anything in your life that was so intimidating that you decided it was better to run the opposite direction so that you would not have to deal with it?

That is actually what happened with the people from our gospel. They had been following Jesus because he fed them. He gave them food when they were hungry and they wanted more of that physical food. Even when Jesus tried to get away from them, they followed the next morning.

And when the crowds kept coming after Jesus, he kept trying to teach them about God and who he truly was. I really do think that most of the people were truly interested in what Jesus had to say, but they became intimidated because of what Jesus was saying. And so, many of them turned away and left. The cost or the commitment was not worth it to them. They wanted to take the easier way out.

God does not want to do anything that turns us away, but reality is that there are those who do not accept Jesus as their savior. It can be very intimidating being a Christian. It is more than just a belief in God who loves us very much; it is a way of life and that alone can be intimidating.

When Jesus asked the disciples if they also wished to go away and not have to worry about all that Jesus was doing, Simon Peter said, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words to eternal life."

Don't get me wrong, it is extremely difficult to live a Christian life where you offer forgiveness and love to those around you. Some people don't like that commitment nor do they want it, but through that commitment, we do receive eternal life because God is also committed to you.

Last month, I pulled the Nash out of the machine shed that had been its hiding place. I parked it on the trailer at Bob's gas station by DQ North during the led sled show. After getting zero interest on it, I decided to act on what I had been thinking over the past 4 or 5 months. I made a phone call and sold the Chevy stock car because there is no way that Heidi would be able to crawl over the roll cage to go for a ride and the Nash is now in the garage on jack stands and the work has begun. She will not have a tilt front end because that still intimidates me and not sure how to do it where I won't ruin the fenders, but I have another plan that will work.

With the Nash, I did turn and run from it. But after some time had gone by, I returned to finish the job. There are times in our Christian life where we turn and run from what God has planned. Sometimes we return and sometimes we don't. No matter if we turn back in mid run or years later, God is there waiting for us. He will take us back one at a time, hundreds at a time or even thousands at a time. Aren't we truly blessed knowing that God is more faithful to us than we will ever be to him.