

Soul Surfer

Soul Surfer - the inspiring true story of Bethany Hamilton. This newly released movie now screening in Melbourne tells the story of Bethany who lost her arm in a shark attack in 2003. She was only thirteen years old when she was attacked! The film is based on Bethany's biographical book: Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board.

After rehabilitation Bethany struggles to re-enter competition. Bethany desires to 'fit in' and be normal to which her mum relies, "Normal is overrated." As she struggles to try to get back to pro-surfing she tells her dad, "I don't need easy. I just need possible."

Throughout the film her faith in God is portrayed. It is a mission trip to Thailand that God uses to help her realize she can use her gift of surfing as a platform to inspire others. It is a gripping story of perseverance. Although the dramatization loses a little of the raw realness of life, it is a film that will challenge and inspire you. Towards the end of the film a reporter asks Bethany if she would change that fateful day if given the chance. She replies, "I could never have embraced this many people with two arms."

The re-building of the walls of Jerusalem was a spiritual task, a task threatened by all sorts of obstacles. Nehemiah displayed commonsense and flexibility in interrupting the work briefly in order to rally the people (4:13-14), and in setting in place new arrangements for security (4:16-20). Then he encouraged the people by an appeal to tradition, using methods and words which had proved effective in the past history of Israel. For example, compare Nehemiah 4:14 with Exodus 14:13-14; Nehemiah 4:15 with Exodus 15:14-16, and Nehemiah 4:20 with Exodus 14:14 and Judges 6:34. By imposing a familiar, interpretative framework on his people's sense of confusion, Nehemiah was able to turn even their fear and sense of weakness into a ground for faith and action (IVP New Bible Commentary, p. 434).

What is stopping you from living? If you are chasing your own dreams you could be on the path for disappointment. But if you believe God has a mission for you, then you will not try to be normal. You will not allow setbacks and obstacles to defeat God's purpose for your life. Instead, you can let God work through you to bring glory to God and hope to those around you. Which path will you choose?