To stake all one's chips on a single throw

This title is not a biblical term. This Chinese idiom literally means to stake all one's chips on a single throw. From a Christian faith perspective, we need to distinguish two very different scenarios:

1. The worldly meaning: gambling for luck, putting everything at risk, relying purely on chance. The outcome is uncertain: if you lose, you lose everything. From a biblical view, this kind of speculative gamble is not approved. It is rooted in greed or impatience, trusting in luck instead of God's promises. It can even be a form of testing God or presumptuous asking. The Book of Proverbs warns against reckless risk and chasing quick gains. The book of Proverbs is a collection of moral and religious teachings. It begins with the reminder that "To have knowledge, you must first have reverence for the Lord". Religious morality, common sense, good manners, etiquette in social relationships and the need of self-control are taught. The insights of ancient Israelite teachers are revealed about what a wise person will do in certain situations.

2. Faithful surrender - which may look like "putting on the line" to outsiders. Many biblical figures seemed to give up everything with no backup plan. But this is not gambling. Their foundation was trust in God's faithfulness, not random luck.

When Jesus was on earth preaching the coming of the Kingdom of God, He performed numerous miracles in the New Testament of the Bible. curing diseases, physical deformities. He showed His power over nature, like turning water into wine at Cana, walking on water, multiplying small amounts of food to feed thousands. Jesus also cast out demons and raised the dead on three recorded occasions. The people flocked around Jesus, begging for help. They believed and trusted Jesus is divine and is the only one who can save them from their ailments.

- Mark 5: 25-34 There was a woman who had suffered terribly from severe bleeding for twelve years, even though she had been treated by many doctors. She had spent all her money, but instead of getting better she got worse all the time. She had heard about Jesus, so she came in the crowd behind him, saying to herself, "If I just touch his clothes, I will get well," She touched his cloak, and her bleeding stopped at once; and she had the feeling inside herself that she was healed of her trouble. At once Jesus knew that power had gone out of him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" His disciples answered, "You see how the people are crowding you; why do you ask who touched you?" But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. The woman realized what had happened to her, so she came, trembling with fear, knelt at his feet, and told him the whole truth. Jesus said to her, "My daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your trouble."

This account testifies of Jesus's compassion and His power to heal us when we have faith in Him, even when we have been unable to find relief from other sources.

John 9:1-11 records the miracle of Jesus healing a man who was born blind. The healed man testified, "Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me. Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash : and I washed, and I received sight" Jesus Christ healed the man in this account from physical blindness, He can cure us of the spiritual blindness that comes from focusing too much on the things of this world. Additionally, although this miracle was performed by the power of God, Jesus still required the man to act in faith before he could see. We likewise must often act in faith to see the miracles in our lives.

Matthew 8:5-13 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help, "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly," Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?" The centurion replied, "Lord I do not deserve to have you come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me, I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes, I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."
When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith, I say to you that many will come from the east and west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, but the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, in the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

John 12:1-8 Mary who anointed Jesus with expensive perfume - She poured out something worth a year's wages out of love for Christ.

Matthew 13:44-46 The parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price. The man joyfully sold all he had to buy the treasure, because he recognised its supreme value.

Abraham leaving his homeland to follow God's call was also a great example of singularly minded and faithfully surrendering to the Lord's calling.

We are humans, we can be tempted into motives of greed, hoping for a lucky break. Living in a very noisy materialist world, 'impatience' can play fog on our minds and bring us to quickly decide on "putting all in one bet", with no idea of the outcome, whether great rewards or disastrous and total loss.

As Christians, we must reflect seriously on the idiom of 'staking one's all chips on a single throw'. For me, this idiom can mean whole hearted commitment, holding nothing back, and choosing God above everything and everyone else. It is not encouraging reckless speculation or risky gambles to follow God's will. With biblical faith and commitment, this is the right and safest way to willingly surrender everything in trust of God's promises.

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Dear Father Ha,

Thank you so much for your classes. I have been much enlightened that time, space. I was also able to read the Bible more often than before. I pray for your good health and give thanks to God that you have been teaching us with so many thoughts and reflections that I never knew before.

God bless you always,
Claire