

The Company of the Committed

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 6th

Last week we discussed how Daniel was able, even as a young man, to safely navigate the dangerous currents of a godless culture because he purposed to Trust and Obey God, regardless of the cost. (Daniel 1) This decision was reinforced by a commitment to:

- Consistent Prayer (Time with God) *Regardless of the cost.* (Daniel chapters 2,6,9,10)
- Applying the Principles of God's Word, *Regardless of the cost.* (chapters 1,2,6,9,10)

As a result, God blessed him with both *insight* (wisdom) and *influence*! Dan 1:20-21

"And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all ... that were in all his realm. And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus."

Joshua made similar choices & faced similar challenges. He chose:

1. To Trust and Obey, even when others turned away.

A. He was one of 12 men chosen to spy out Canaan.

- 1) 10 of them *"brought up an evil report ..."* (Num. 13:32) influencing Israel: Nu 14:1,2

"And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night, and murmured against Moses."

- 2) Joshua (and Caleb) made a different choice. Josh. 14:6-8 14:6-8 *"Joshua and Caleb rent their*

clothes... saying, The land... is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us... Only rebel not against the Lord."

B. Their commitment Cost them!

Trusting and Obeying God always involves a cost!

Nu. 14:10 *"But all the congregation bade stone them. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all."*

2. Time with God when others avoided Him.

A. He was up in the mountain with Moses (Ex. 24:13) while the people were turning toward idolatry. (Ex. 32)

B. Moses moved the tabernacle outside of the camp. Ex 33:7-11

"Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. Every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp... when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone... but Joshua, ... departed not out of the tabernacle."

He Prioritized Prayer (time with God) Regardless of Cost!

3. Treasure God's Word Joshua 1:8 *"This book of the law shall not depart out of*

thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe (guard/regard) to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous (šālah': to push forward) and then thou shalt have good success."

(šākal': understanding, so you can make wise choices. Eph. 5:17)

Because Joshua Trusted, Obeyed, Prayed, and Prioritized God's Word: Jos 1:5
"as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. ... Be strong and of good courage (vs 6,7,9,18) ... that thou observe to do all the law (vs 7,8)... that thou mayest prosper" (Vs 7,8)

Conclusion:

- 1) Joshua and Daniel made similar choices and faced similar challenges.
 - Trust & Obey when others turned away.
 - Prioritized Time with God. (Prayer)
 - Treasured the Truths of God's Word.
- 2) Both "counted the cost" of their choices (and were willing to pay it!)
- 3) God blessed both of them with insight and influence.

All God's children will face similar choices...and challenges! To pursue God's blessings, we too must: Purpose to Trust and Obey God; Prioritize Time with God (Prayer); and Personalize the principles of His word. Joshua 1:8
"for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Application: Like Joshua (in Joshua 24:15) I challenge you:
"if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve..."
(Consider carefully the alternative!)

Ps. 16:1,8,11: *"Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust... I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Thou wilt shew me the path of life (Obedience) in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore."*

To expect *"fulness of joy"* without a commitment to "trust and obey" Is both illogical and inconsistent with the clear teaching of scripture.



This path of Joy (God's blessings) Requires both commitment and cost!
Mt 16:24 *"If any will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."*

Heb. 12:1,2 *"Seeing we're compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race set before us... looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith"*

Will you purpose to pursue God's Path of life, regardless of where it may take you, or what it may take from you (cost). (Luke 14:25-35)

Will you join the company of the committed?