

## Continue to Walk by Faith

**Scenario 1 (making decisions):** James was trying to decide if he should sell his house now or wait. He prayed to God to what would be the right answer. After waiting for an answer, he felt he heard from God, so he made sure his purpose was in line with God's purpose, He check with his brothers in Christ to make sure his decision was not outside of God's will. He decided to sell now. He made a decent amount on the house and was able to buy another house in another neighborhood. A year later the market changed and his house would have sold for much more than it did when he sold it. James was very angry and didn't understand why God did this to him.

- **What did James do wrong? Is James looking at this correctly? How should the following issues be dealt with?**
  - Should I pick this job or that one?
  - Should I go here for vacation or there?
  - Should I move or stay put?

**Scenario 2 (Living Faithfully):** Two brothers, one Christian the other not, maintained their finances very differently. The Christian gave to God faithfully, gave to those in need as well. He also invested his money wisely, studied the stock market, did not carelessly spend, managed his resources in a way so that there was very little waste, and he gave thanks to God for all he had. The non-Christian spent his money faster than he made it. He was financially careless in every way and never acknowledges God. Later on in life each went through very different financial situations. The Christian had a life-threatening medical situation that required all the finances he had and put him in a very vulnerable situation. The non-Christian received an inheritance that financially set him for life. The Christian became frustrated with God because he felt he did everything required of God.

- **Was he being punished and the unbeliever rewarded? What should we look to receive for being faithful like doing the following?**
  - Attend Church often
  - Pray continually
  - Diligently study the Bible

**Our ENTIRE life walk MUST BE defined by Faith ONLY!** - 2 Cor 5:7 **We live** by faith, **NOT** by sight.

- Unfortunately, We have changed this to mean we live in faith of what we see or we walk by "desired results".
  - The Flaw - **Our definition of Faith** – Believing in God to give to us based on our desires and how we see it.
  - The Answer - **Accepting True Faith** – Totally Trusting and believing in God even when it goes totally against how I see it.

**\*Let's be honest, the outcome for Joseph walking in faith was not desirable, however, He stayed faithful to God. This is one of the many great examples in the Old Testament of truly walking in Faith – (Gen 39:8-23)**

**Psalms 73 displays how God understands what we go through, and points us in the right direction**

**The process of being discouraged with what seems to be the unfairness of life, but realizing the dangers of desired outcomes** - Ps 73:2-12 - 2 But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. 3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. 5 They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills. 6 **THEREFORE** pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. 7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits. 8 They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression. 9 Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. 10 **Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance**. 11 They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?" 12 This is what the wicked are like — always carefree, they increase in wealth.

**The battle we have within ourselves is asking, "is it worth it to continue living as a Christian?" and we will not understand without the understanding of God** - Ps 73:13-17 - 13 Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. 14 All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children. 16 **When I TRIED to understand all this, it was oppressive to me** 17 **TILL I ENTERED THE SANCTUARY OF GOD; THEN I UNDERSTOOD THEIR FINAL DESTINY.**

**When we are focused the right way, we then depend and trust in God** - Ps 73:21-28 - 21 When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, 22 **I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you**. 23 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And **earth has nothing I desire besides you**. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 **THOSE WHO ARE FAR FROM YOU WILL PERISH; YOU DESTROY ALL WHO ARE UNFAITHFUL TO YOU**. 28 But as for me, **it is good to be near God**. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

**The process of continually walking by faith**

**We must have Faith and there is only one way of getting it** - Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the **word of Christ**.

**DO NOT allow any situation to define and/or dictate your life path** - 1 Cor 7:20-24 - 20 Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you — although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, **EACH MAN, AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD**, should remain in the situation God called him to.

**\*God is stating we are to shine Him in any situation**

The difference for Christians is not the situation, but how we are in any the situation - Rom 8:28 And we know that **IN ALL THINGS God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose.

Being led by Jesus' prayer, we are to focus ultimately on **GOD'S WILL not our desired outcome** - Luke 22:42-44 - 42 "Father, **if you are willing**, take this cup from me; yet **NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS BE DONE.**" 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Our main goal is to stay in God's protection - Jude 20-21 - 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your **most holy faith** and pray in the Holy Spirit. 21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

We stay in his protection by making HIM our sole purpose - Gal 6:7-8 - 7 **Do not be deceived**: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature **will reap destruction**; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit **will reap eternal life**.

Prayer is essential, not necessarily for outcome, but for holiness - Phil 4:6-7 - 6 **Do not be anxious about anything**, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the **PEACE OF GOD**, which *transcends all understanding*, **WILL guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus**.

Don't let how situations seem affect your trust in God and he will eventually reveal what's truly happening - 1 Cor 4:3-5 - 3 **I care very little if I am judged** by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. **IT IS THE LORD WHO JUDGES ME**. 5 Therefore **judge nothing before the appointed time**; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. **AT THAT TIME** each will receive his praise from God.

\*With all that has been heard, when it comes to decision making or living faithfully, we have to live completely trusting in God. This means, at times it may SEEM like things are going in the wrong direction, but we must focus on what God says (Faith) NOT on how it seems (sight).