

FAITH-BASED LIVING

Purpose

To establish the connection between faith and conduct; both are essential to a successful life. Note: Look closely at Joshua and Caleb as an example of ones who had an “another spirit” and who “wholly followed” after God (Nu. 14:24; Josh. 32:12).

Objective

- Define the term “faith-based” and be prepared to use Joshua as an example of one who faithfully obeyed God. Joshua “heard” God’s promise and unlike the ten spies who disbelieved, Joshua’s conduct was faithful.
- Discuss the idea that faith based living demands obedience – even when it appears unpopular (Nu. 13, Josh. 1:1-9, 22:15)
- We must not give into temptations that Satan is sure to throw at us (1 Pet. 5:8-9). He will use the majority and peer pressure to win us over. How are you doing with this?

Outcome

- Make sure that we have a clear understanding that faith should always demonstrate itself in the life of the believer. Faith should not be altered by consequences and faith produces works (Lk. 13:6-9). What are we saying? Our **conduct** is a demonstration of our **faith**.

Key thought

- In the absence of pleasing God with a faith-based life, we might be a Donald Trump or Bill Gates success among men; in reality, we are absolute failures.
- Consider your favorite godly characters. How do you match up? Can it be said of you that you stand tall when God needs you most? Or, do you shrink back from your duty? The promise land is for the few who stand tall.

Discussion

1. What does James 2 have to say about faith and works/conduct?
2. Is dressing inappropriately a matter of faith?
3. Would the telling an off-color joke be a matter of faith?
4. Would indulging in drunkenness be a matter of faith?
5. Would lusting after someone be a matter of faith?
6. Would sleeping during service be a matter of faith?
7. Would disobeying your parents or those in authority be a matter of faith?
8. Would failing to tell others about Christ be a matter of faith?
9. Would gossiping, lying or other misuses of the tongue, be a matter of faith?
10. Could the death of a friend or love one alter our faith?
11. Could one’s faith change over time?