

Faith and Courage:

Great Outcomes

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
For the Saturday Service May 2nd 2021

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- ❖ This week we have the National Day of Prayer with a special 24 hour prayer watch leading up to the service Thursday night. This will begin Wednesday, May 5 at 6:00pm, we will meet in Genesis Sanctuary for hour-long shifts of prayer on behalf of our nation. Pastor Allen will be leading each video-driven segment of prayer. Please go to wochurch.org for more information and to register. Everyone is welcome and if you live outside our area you can participate livestream.

We will not arrive at our destination of Gods plan for our lives without faith and courage. The life that is intended to bring honor and glory to the Lord. It is necessary for us to understand the times we are living in, in order to accept our assignment in the arena. We have time to awaken our hearts toward God and He will help us.

I. Faith in God Who Restores: Imperfect Servants Are Useful

Isaiah 1:18-20 (NIV®)

¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; ²⁰ but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

1. God wants to make things right; He is looking to remove anything getting in the way of His relationship with you. He is offering forgiveness, extending the invitation. Identify something you can change to have a clear path to the Lord?

Judges 16:20-29 (NIV®)

²⁰ Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But **he did not know that the LORD had left him.** ²¹ Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison. ²² But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

Judges 16:26-29 (NIV®)

²⁶ Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them." ²⁷ Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. ²⁸ Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "**O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more,** and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." ²⁹ Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other,

2. Samson was chosen for a special purpose initiated by God for the deliverance of His people. What did Samson's refusal of discipline cost him?
3. Although Samson "fell asleep" and didn't realize he had lost the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, God redeemed his life & purpose. Discuss how we have been asleep or dismissive of God's purposes before the 2020 disturbance. How are you changing now or how have you been awakened?
4. God can still use us as a nation for His purposes if awakened to the truth and become involved. What is one way you can get involved?

Prayer

- ❖ It is vital to know that failure is not final. Let's pray with one another for a new beginning, one that is better than what has gone before. Agree together God's purposes for your life are still intact and will flourish.

II. God's Faithfulness—Faith in God

It isn't just God's faithfulness toward us...it is our responsibility to be faithful toward Him. The importance and power of patience is that it protects the outcomes of our lives. Faithfulness is our assignment and the outcomes are directed by God.

1 Peter 2:23 (NIV®)

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, **he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.**

5. It takes bold faith to know that God is watching over us. He is a God of mercy and compassion; also a God of righteousness. We learn through experience and faithfulness to entrust our well-being to Him. Is there a place you want to relinquish fear and have bold faith in God for yourself or someone your care about?
6. When life disappoints us we feel isolation and the fruit of it is resentment, anger, and bitterness. These feelings often lead us to ungodly choices that result in destructive behavior.

Prayer

- ❖ Let's pray with one another and thank God that He is with us, that we are not alone. That we have been set free through His power and authority we will be victorious and overcome.

Faith Combined with Patience???

Hebrews 6:12 (NIV®)

¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who **through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.**

Hebrews 6:14-15 (NASB®)

¹⁴ saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." ¹⁵ And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.

7. Faith when combined with patience is a powerful force. Where do you find it most difficult to practice patience? Where is one area you have grown in patience this year?
8. Abraham acted in faith as he left Ur of Chaldees. Abraham waited decades for the birth of his son Isaac. Abraham responded as he offered Isaac on an altar. Through his whole life God kept challenging Abraham to grow in his faith and obedience. Where are you growing in your faith and obedience?

- ❖ We do not like to pray for patience! Let's pray for the strength and fortitude to endure, preserve and hold on to the truth and purposes God has for our lives.

Prayer

Heavenly Father I rejoice in Your great faithfulness to me. You are my rock and my redeemer. All my days are secure in Your hands. Your lovingkindness overshadows me. You have called me out of darkness and set my feet on a path of righteousness. I put my trust in You for You are a faithful God, amen.

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