



Candidly, we have come to the place where we are addicted to “easy,” along with the certainty that our lives should be filled with comfort and convenience. Now, comfort and convenience are not evil in themselves, but we should not make our decisions about our future and destiny—or about our character and what we will invest ourselves in—based upon comfort and convenience instead of God’s perspective. That would be idolatry! And in this day, breaking our addiction to *easy* is vitally important because what lies ahead of us could hold some significant disruptions, and we need to be prepared by learning to “do difficult.” But the only reason we will be able to do difficult things is because Almighty God is our Helper—we are not alone. He will help us. So, the invitation before us is to decide that we did all the “easy” yesterday, and today we’ll step up to do the difficult things. Let’s go!

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” — *Arthur Ashe*

“Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.” — *Winston S. Churchill*

I. MY YOKE IS EASY & MY BURDEN IS LIGHT

Matthew 11:28–30 ²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Hebrews 3:16–19 ¹⁶ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷ And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? ¹⁸ And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? ¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

Numbers 13:27–32 ²⁷ They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

³⁰ Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” ³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.

1. In ways, Christianity has been reduced to an “easy believism”; a self-indulgent approach to faith eliminating the premise of a Sovereign God. Put in your own words what it means that God is sovereign. What are some of the important life-related issues on which God’s sovereignty touches your life?
2. How would you respond to someone who says the Christian life is burdensome? How have you experienced the rest that Christ gives us?

II. GOD PRESENTS DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENTS

Hebrews 12:2–3 ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy set before him endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Philippians 2:5–11 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but **made himself nothing**, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and **became obedient to death**— even death on a cross!

⁹ **Therefore God exalted him to the highest place** and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A. Obedience is Seldom Easy

Hebrews 5:8 *Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered.*

B. The Temptation of Easy

Luke 4:5–7 ⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”

3. Pastor Allen said, “Jesus learned obedience from what He suffered.” Why do you feel that many churches today are having trouble being obedient to what we are called to do as Christ followers?

C. Let’s Do Difficult

Matthew 28:18–20 ¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

D. The Power to Complete the Difficult

Zechariah 4:6 *So he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.*

Romans 8:11 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

Ephesians 1:18–21 ¹⁸ *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*

4. If God presents you with a difficult assignment, how can walking in obedience to Him bring about freedom in different areas of your life?

5. What causes people to accept standards that are less than good? What are some outcomes of compromising our faith that we are experiencing in our culture today? How will compromising our faith affect our future?

PRAYER

Almighty God, You have made the earth and everything it. You change the times and seasons; You set up leaders and you depose them. You give wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. We choose to submit to You, to follow in obedience with the strength You have provided. Now, may the eyes of our hearts be enlightened to know the hope to which have called us, the riches of our glorious inheritance in the saints, and Your incomparable power at work on our behalf. In Jesus’ name, amen.