

THE **ACTS** OF FAITH



PIONEERS

2020-21 SERMON SERIES



NO I WON'T!

NOT IF I HAVE TO
DO THAT.

I'M OUT,
I'M JUST NOT
READY YET.

I'LL PASS...
THERE'S TOO
MUCH TO LOSE.

WHATEVER

SACRIFICE OF MY COMFORTS

WHENEVER

SACRIFICE OF MY PLANS

HOWEVER

SACRIFICE OF MY WAYS



YES I WILL!

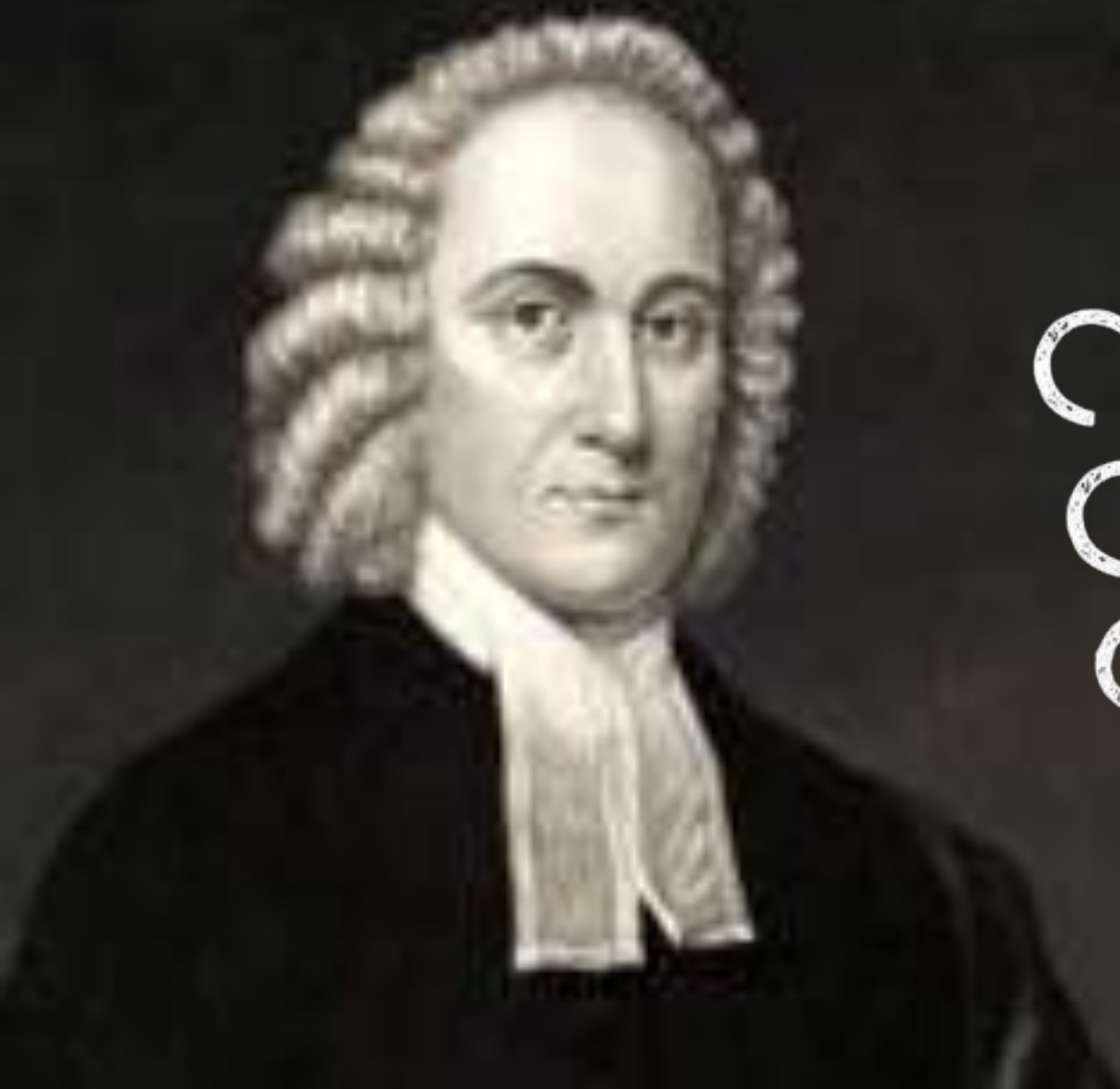
WHATEVER IT
TAKES.

I'M IN,
I'LL DO
WHAT I CAN.

I'LL GO...
THERE'S TOO
MUCH TO GAIN.

“DISCIPLINE IS A SKILL”





PIONEERS

WHATEVER
WHENEVER
HOWEVER

37. **RESOLVED**

To inquire every night, as I am going to bed, wherein I have been negligent, what sin I have committed, and wherein I have denied myself: Also, at the end of every week, month and year.

Dec. 22 and 26, 1722.

DISCIPLINE



A dark silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, facing right, set against a dark grey background. The person appears to be wearing a wig or a similar hairstyle.

69. **RESOLVED**

Always to do that, which I shall wish I had done when I see others do it.

Aug. 11, 1723.

INSPIRATION



A dark silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, facing right, set against a dark grey background. The silhouette is centered and occupies the middle ground of the image.

67. **RESOLVED**

After afflictions, to inquire, what I am the better for them, what good I have got by them, and what I might have got by them.

TRIALS

PIONEERS

A dark silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, facing right, set against a dark grey background. The silhouette is positioned behind the text.

46. **RESOLVED**

Never to allow the least measure of any fretting uneasiness at my father or mother. Resolved to suffer no effects of it, so much as in the least alteration of speech, or motion of my eye.

PARENTS

PIONEERS

A dark silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, facing right, set against a dark grey background. The silhouette is positioned behind the main text.

28. **RESOLVED**

To study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.

SCRIPTURE

PIONEERS

42. **RESOLVED**

Frequently to renew the dedication of myself to God, which was made at my baptism; which I solemnly renewed, when I was received into the communion of the church; and which I have solemnly re-made this twelfth day of January, 1722-23.

DEVOTION



DIFFERENT

A **FAITH** THAT IS SET APART



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

PIONEERS

ACTS

A NEW THING

- **A NEW Stage**
THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES
- **A NEW Course**
THE LAUNCH OF THE CHURCH
- **A NEW People**
THE BODY OF CHRIST

PIONEERS

ACTS

ONE OF A KIND

- **A RECORD** of the transition from Judaism to Christianity
- **A CANVAS** of the background behind Paul's NT epistles
- **A LIBRARY** of the growth and practices of the early church
- **A SEQUEL** of the history set forth in the gospels
- **A TOUR** of the captivating accounts of the apostle's epic faith

PIONEERS

ACTS

OF THE 12 APOSTLES

PETER Influential Leader

JAMES Passionate Fighter

JOHN Man of Conviction

ANDREW Servant Leader

PHILIP Detail Guy

BARTHOLOMEW The Scholar

MATTHEW Recovering Rebel

THOMAS Faithful Follower

JAMES Obscure One

THADDAEUS Hype Guy

SIMON An Activist

MATTHIAS The Replacement

¹ Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a **complaint** by the **Hellenists** arose against the **Hebrews** because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, **“It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.”**



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you **seven men** of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

⁴ But we will *devote* ourselves to
prayer and to the **ministry of the word**.
And what they said pleased the whole gathering,



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**



DIFFERENT

SEVEN

PIONEERS

PICK OUT FROM YOU

SEVEN MEN

OF GOOD REPUTE

FULL OF THE SPIRIT

AND WISDOM

WHOM WE WILL

APPOINT TO THE DUTY

⁵ And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and

STEPHEN
PHILIP
PROCHORUS
NICANOR
TIMON
PARMENAS
NICOLAUS



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

STEPHEN
PHILIP
PROCHORUS
NICANOR
TIMON
PARMENAS
NICOLAUS

⁷ And the word of God continued to **increase**,
and the disciples multiplied greatly in
Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests
became obedient to the faith.



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

⁸ And Stephen, full of **grace** and **power**,
was doing great wonders and signs
among the people.



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**



EARLY

CHURCH FAMILY LOOKED OUT FOR PHYSICAL NEEDS

CHURCH LEADERSHIP PRIORITIZED PRAYER AND PREACHING

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION WILLINGLY ADAPTED METHODS

CHURCH CHALLENGES WERE ADDRESSED NOT DISMISSED

CHURCH SOLUTIONS CAME FROM WITHIN

⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia **rose up and disputed with Stephen.**



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

¹⁰ But **they could not withstand** the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

¹⁰ Then **they secretly instigated men** who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."



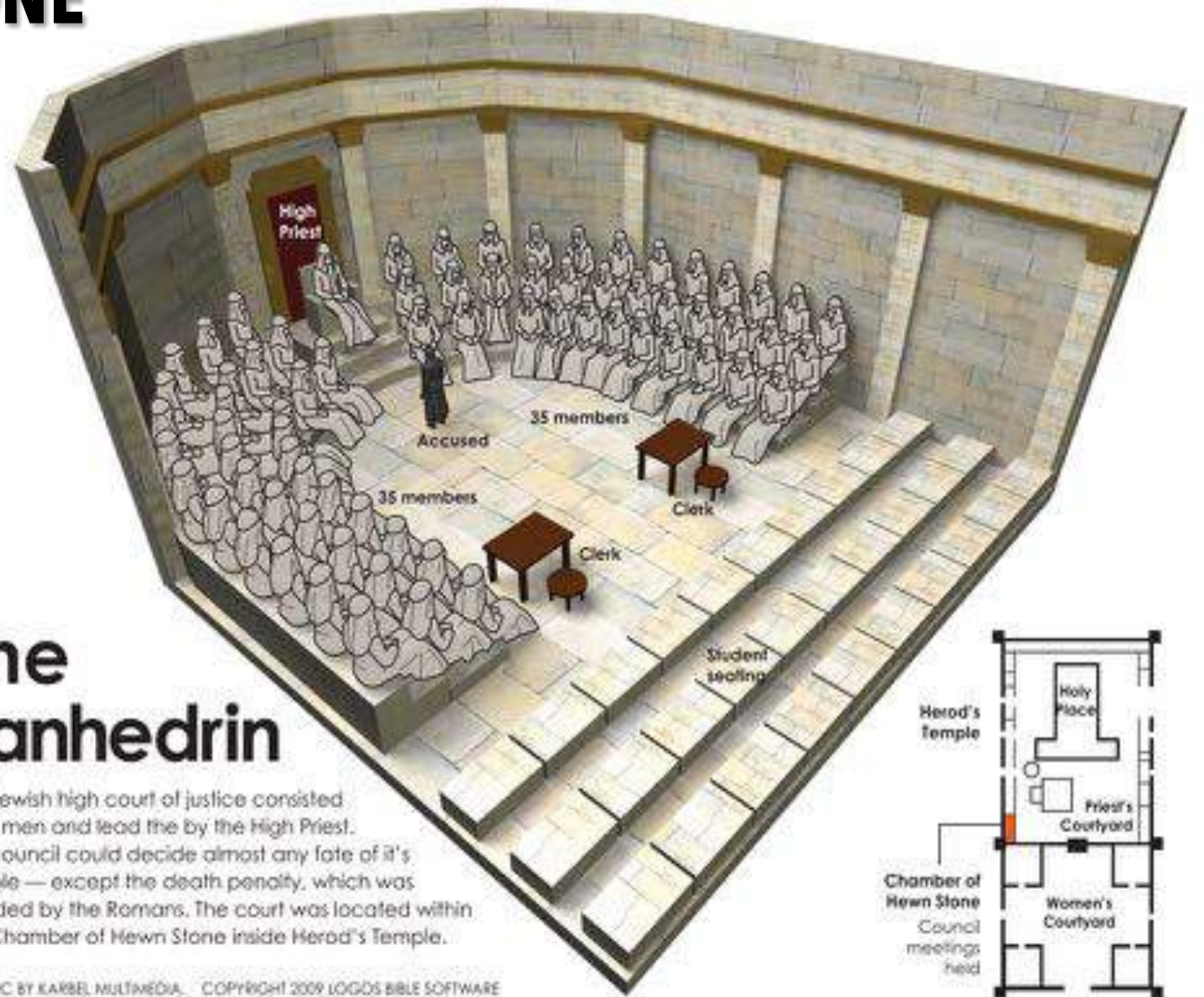
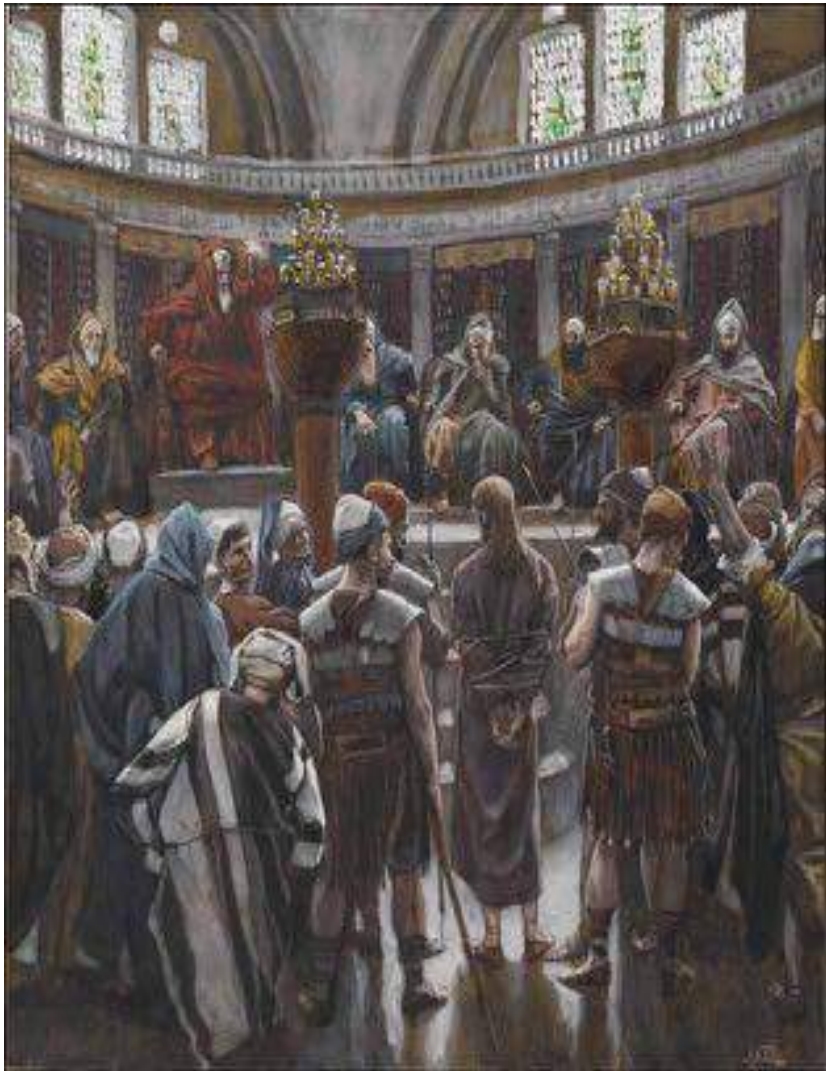
ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

¹² And **they stirred up the people** and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council,



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

"CHAMBER OF HEWN STONE"



The Sanhedrin

The Jewish high court of justice consisted of 71 men and led by the High Priest. The council could decide almost any fate of its people — except the death penalty, which was decided by the Romans. The court was located within the Chamber of Hewn Stone inside Herod's Temple.

GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA. COPYRIGHT 2009 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE

¹³ And **they set up false witnesses** who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law,



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

¹⁴ For **we have heard him say** that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.”



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

¹⁵ And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like **the face of an angel.**



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**

And the high priest said, "Are these things so?"



ACTS 6:1-15 **ESV**



Why Stephen was so
DIFFERENT



FULL OF

FULL OF

FULL OF

FULL OF



Why Stephen was so
DIFFERENT

PIONEERS

FULL OF THE SPIRIT

FULL OF

FULL OF

FULL OF



2 Ways to Prevent
DIFFERENT

PIONEERS

1 THESSALONIANS 5:19

1. Do not **quench** the Holy Spirit.
LIKE STARVING A FIRE

EPHESIANS 4:30

2. Do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God.
LIKE SADDENING A PERSON

by whom you were **sealed** for the day of redemption.



1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

- 1.** **Rejoice** always
Pray without ceasing
In everything **give thanks**

Our **ATTITUDE** Makes Us
DIFFERENT

PIONEERS

For this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.



2 Ways to Prevent
DIFFERENT

PIONEERS

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LIKE SADDENING A PERSON

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OUR **OBEDIENCE** MAKE US
DIFFERENT

PIONEERS

EPHESIANS 4:31

2. Let all **bitterness** and **wrath**
HARBORING RESENTMENT OUTBURSTS OF FRUSTRATION
and **anger** and **clamor** and
NOISY ASSERTIVENESS SHOUTING & ARGUING
slander be put away from you,
WORDS WITH HURTFUL INTENT
along with all **malice.**
ILL WILL TOWARD ANOTHER



OUR **OBEDIENCE** MAKE US
DIFFERENT

PIONEERS

EPHESIANS 4:32

2. Be **kind** to one another,
GRACIOUS, RESPECTFUL
tenderhearted, forgiving
SYMPATHETIC, AFFECTIONATE, COMPASSIONATE LET GO OF AN OFFENSE
one another, as God
in Christ forgave you.
THE MODEL TO FOLLOW



DIFFERENT

PIONEERS

FULL OF THE SPIRIT

FULL OF WISDOM

FULL OF GRACE

FULL OF POWER



DIFFERENT

FRUIT OF THE FLESH

PIONEERS

- SUCCESS** > LOVE
- RECOGNITION** > JOY
- CONTROL** > PEACE
- IMPULSE** > PATIENCE
- EXPLOITATION** > KINDNESS
- EVIL** > GOODNESS
- POSITION** > FAITHFULNESS
- POWER** > GENTLENESS
- PASSION** > SELF-CONTROL



DIFFERENT

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PIONEERS

- LOVE** > SUCCESS
- JOY** > RECOGNITION
- PEACE** > CONTROL
- PATIENCE** > IMPULSE
- KINDNESS** > EXPLOITATION
- GOODNESS** > EVIL
- FAITHFULNESS** > POSITION
- GENTLENESS** > POWER
- SELF-CONTROL** > PASSION

25. **RESOLVED**

To examine carefully, and constantly, what that one thing in me is, which causes me in the least to doubt of the love of God; and to direct all my forces against it.

Jonathan Edwards



DIFFERENT

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PIONEERS

- LOVE > SUCCESS
- JOY > RECOGNITION
- PEACE > CONTROL
- PATIENCE > IMPULSE
- KINDNESS > EXPLOITATION
- GOODNESS > EVIL
- FAITHFULNESS > POSITION
- GENTLENESS > POWER
- SELF-CONTROL > PASSION

A dark silhouette of Jonathan Edwards, showing his head with a powdered wig and his shoulders, set against a dark grey background.

12. **RESOLVED**

If I take delight in it as a gratification of pride, or vanity, or on any such account, immediately to throw it by.

Jonathan Edwards



DIFFERENT

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PIONEERS

- LOVE > SUCCESS
- JOY > RECOGNITION
- PEACE > CONTROL
- PATIENCE > IMPULSE
- KINDNESS > EXPLOITATION
- GOODNESS > EVIL
- FAITHFULNESS > POSITION
- GENTLENESS > POWER
- SELF-CONTROL > PASSION

52. **RESOLVED.**

I frequently hear persons in old age say how they would live, if they were to live their lives over again: Resolved that I will live just so as I can think I shall wish I had done, supposing I live to old age.

Jonathan Edwards

July 8, 1723.



DIFFERENT

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PIONEERS

- LOVE > SUCCESS
- JOY > RECOGNITION
- PEACE > CONTROL
- PATIENCE > IMPULSE
- KINDNESS > EXPLOITATION
- GOODNESS > EVIL
- FAITHFULNESS > POSITION
- GENTLENESS > POWER
- SELF-CONTROL > PASSION

19. **RESOLVED**

Never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour, before I should hear the last trump.

Jonathan Edwards

December 1722.



DIFFERENT

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PIONEERS

- LOVE > SUCCESS
- JOY > RECOGNITION
- PEACE > CONTROL
- PATIENCE > IMPULSE
- KINDNESS** > EXPLOITATION
- GOODNESS > EVIL
- FAITHFULNESS > POSITION
- GENTLENESS > POWER
- SELF-CONTROL > PASSION

58. **RESOLVED**

Not only to refrain from an air of dislike, fretfulness, and anger in conversation, but to exhibit an air of love, cheerfulness and benignity.

Jonathan Edwards

May 27, and July 13, 1723.



DIFFERENT

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PIONEERS

- LOVE > SUCCESS
- JOY > RECOGNITION
- PEACE > CONTROL
- PATIENCE > IMPULSE
- KINDNESS > EXPLOITATION
- GOODNESS** > EVIL
- FAITHFULNESS > POSITION
- GENTLENESS > POWER
- SELF-CONTROL > PASSION

24. **RESOLVED**

Whenever I do any conspicuously evil action, to trace it back, till I come to the original cause; and then both carefully endeavor to do so no more, and to fight and pray with all my might against the original of it.

Jonathan Edwards



DIFFERENT

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PIONEERS

- LOVE > SUCCESS
- JOY > RECOGNITION
- PEACE > CONTROL
- PATIENCE > IMPULSE
- KINDNESS > EXPLOITATION
- GOODNESS > MANEUVERING
- FAITHFULNESS** > POSITION
- GENTLENESS > POWER
- SELF-CONTROL > PASSION

32. **RESOLVED**

To be strictly and firmly faithful to my trust, that that in Proverbs 20:6, "A faithful man who can find?" may not be partly fulfilled in me.

Jonathan Edwards



DIFFERENT

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PIONEERS

- LOVE** > SUCCESS
- JOY** > RECOGNITION
- PEACE** > CONTROL
- PATIENCE** > IMPULSE
- KINDNESS** > EXPLOITATION
- GOODNESS** > MANEUVERING
- FAITHFULNESS** > POSITION
- GENTLENESS** > POWER
- SELF-CONTROL** > PASSION

31. **RESOLVED**

Never to say anything at all against anybody, but when it is perfectly agreeable to the highest degree of Christian honor, agreeable to the lowest humility, and sense of my own faults and failings, and agreeable to the golden rule.

Jonathan Edwards



DIFFERENT

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PIONEERS

- LOVE** > SUCCESS
- JOY** > RECOGNITION
- PEACE** > CONTROL
- PATIENCE** > IMPULSE
- KINDNESS** > EXPLOITATION
- GOODNESS** > MANEUVERING
- FAITHFULNESS** > POSITION
- GENTLENESS** > POWER
- SELF-CONTROL** > PASSION

A large, dark silhouette of Jonathan Edwards, showing his head with curly hair and his shoulders, positioned in the background of the slide.

3. **RESOLVED**

If ever I shall fall and grow dull, so as to neglect to keep any part of these Resolutions, to repent of all I can remember, when I come to myself again.

Jonathan Edwards

June 1723

DIFFERENT
RESOLVED.

