

Resolute

Years ago, I was called in by the leaders of a local church in another state, to help them deal with their founding pastor's moral failure. I was the lead member of a group of pastors that committed several months to the effort to save this pastor and his church from the consequences of his actions. We did everything we could to help, but nothing we did could overcome our friend's lack of resolve to obey God. He simply refused to make up his mind to get right with God and reconcile with his wife.

It was painful and shocking to me see that after years of friendship and fellowship, my friend lacked something essential to living a life that glorifies God. I thought that he was resolute. It turns out, he wasn't.

RESOLUTE means; having or showing a fixed, firm purpose; determined; resolved; unwavering

**I like to think of a resolute person as being
SOLID, NOT SHAKY, CONSISTENT,
RELIABLE, IN IT FOR THE LONG
HAUL, A SOLID FINISHER**

**The Lord Jesus is the perfect example of
what it means to take a Resolute Stand for
righteousness.**

**“I gave My back to those who struck Me,
And My cheeks to those who plucked out
the beard; I did not hide My face from
shame and spitting. “For the Lord God will
help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced;
Therefore I have set My face like a flint,
And I know that I will not be ashamed.”
Isaiah 50:6-7 NKJV**

**“Now it came to pass, when the time had
come for Him to be received up, that He
steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,”
Luke 9:51 NKJV**

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”

Hebrews 12:1-3 NKJV

The Holy Spirit is at work in every Spirit-filled believer changing and empowering them to be like Christ. Christ-like.

And that means living life with a resolute stand to do what’s right and glorify God.

Examples:

- 1. Joseph was resolute in his moral character.**

“.....Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded. But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.” She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible.”

Genesis 39:6-10 NLT

2. Joshua was resolute as the leader of his of his family.

““So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.””

Joshua 24:14-15 NLT

3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were resolute in their refusal to violate their consciences bow in worship to an idol.

“But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “Long live the king! You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments. That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace. But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up.” Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in, Nebuchadnezzar said to them,

“Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?” Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if He doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.””

Daniel 3:8-18 NLT

Conclusion:

Joseph suffered because he was resolute, but God was pleased with his stand for moral purity and rewarded his steadfast with an incredible promotion.

Imagine what would've happened to his future and his family's future, if he'd been lacking in resolve when immorality suddenly rose up to attack him!

Joshua didn't hide from anyone that fact that he had taken a resolute stand to serve God and God alone. He didn't keep his faith private and he wasn't afraid to set the bar high, publicly, and be held accountable by his friends and family.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, had no rights and no recourse. All they had was resolve to honor God above their own lives.

God rewarded their resolute stand for righteousness by saving them in the fire, making them a powerful godly witness to a pagan king and promoting them to higher positions of influence in the kingdom. If even one of them had lacked decisiveness in that moment and decided to bow their knee to an idol, that might have influenced to other two to sin and God's power would've been useless and their future would've been forfeit.

Here's the question:

“And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions?.....”

I Kings 18:21 NKJV

Either you're in, or your out.

How long will you sit on the fence while you're sitting in church?

