



## Defiant: Living Out Intentional Faith

**July 16, 2023 - Pastor Jason Carter**

How do we be active and intentional in our faith, and engage the Lord through the Bible and what we believe? What happens to our faith when we're disappointed or confused? Are we reading God's word to make it fit our lives, or are we conforming our lives to align with the word? Our goal is to practice stewardship of our faith by taking what we believe according to scripture, and sowing it in faith (through giving, serving, worship, praise, etc).

**Matthew 7:7-8 NIV** Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

### **Two types of faith struggles:**

#### **1. Unknowledgeable faith**

- the desire to know and follow the Lord is there, but we have an unclear or misunderstanding of who God is and what His promises are.

#### **2. Disjointed or Disappointed faith:**

- we become disappointed with God over things that have happened in life or frustrated by things that we think should have gone in a different direction.

**There is mystery in faith.** Our job is to align with God and trust Him with every aspect of our lives.

Imagine an airplane runway at night. A pilot wants to direct the plane in between the running lights. All those lights contain information to allow the airplane to arrive safely. **This picture of this airport runway is much like the word of God.**

God gives us His word- which is like the lights along the runway. The lights help a plane get to its destination and arrive safely. **Now imagine a pilot that says "I don't need the lights and I don't need the runway. I will land the plane where and how I want." What are the odds of a successful landing?**

Often, we pray biblical prayers but then make decisions that that cause us to veer from those prayers. Other times, "life" happens and the situations or consequences of those decisions we've made steer us from what we believe to be true.

### **David and the Ark of the Covenant**

**2 Samuel 6** David again brought together all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand. He and all his men went to Baalah in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark. They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals. When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God. Then David was angry because the Lord's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.

- Uzzah was doing a "good thing" with "good intentions" but he was unknowledgeable in God's ways and acted ignorantly.
- David is angry because he doesn't understand and it doesn't seem to be fair.

**6:9-11** David was afraid of the Lord that day and said, "How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me?" He was not willing to take the ark of the Lord to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the Lord blessed him and his entire household.

- David is experiencing doubt and is confused by God.

**Uzzah was unknowledgeable and it cost him.** Many of us fly blind in faith because we don't know the word of God. **His will is discovered in His word.**

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in His *word*.

**Psalm 119:105** Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

- Now David has a choice: will he remain disappointed? Angry? His desire is in Obed-Edom's house.

**1 Chronicles 15:2, 11-15** Then David said, "No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the Lord chose them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister before him forever." Then David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests,

and Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab the Levites. He said to them, "You are the heads of the Levitical families; you and your fellow Levites are to consecrate yourselves and bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it. It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the Lord our God broke out in anger against us. **We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way.**" So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. **And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the Lord.**

- **We must determine to respond the way David did.**

David did not stay angry. He didn't quiet. He stayed engaged, sought the Lord and what scripture had to say. Then he made the decisions and changes that were needed to align with the Word of God.

### **Tom Huston**

1. Do we have "hard no's" in our lives when it comes to serving God?
  - a. Are there things we just won't do? Are we prioritizing anything (good or bad) over our relationship with God? Family & self, will you surrender even these?

### **Luke 14**

2. Paradigm/principal shift from the mindset that "we will do what God calls us to do if He gives us a sign", to an attitude of "God I will do what you call me to do *unless* you give me a sign *not to*."
  - a. Delayed obedience is disobedience. If we hesitate or procrastinate, the enemy will plant seeds of doubt that could leave us riddled with inaction.

### **Matthew 9:27-34**

3. Three different reactions to Jesus' healing.
    - Blind men: were healed by Christ, trusted in Him and thanked Him for their healing. Their faith was in Jesus.
    - Crowd: amazed at what they saw. Interested in Jesus, but not moving towards Him yet. Their faith wasn't in Him.
    - Pharisees: accused Jesus of being evil, relying only on what they saw, or thought they knew, and not on faith.
- *From Matthew 9, what group are you in?*
  - *How will you commit to knowing what the Word of God says?*
  - *Are there "hard no's" in your life? If so, why are you hesitant to give that over to God?*
  - *Are you allowing disappointment or unanswered prayer to keep you from seeking God?*