

Part 12 F.A.C.E. What kind of people are we? (Two perspectives)

Perspective #1

Welcome everyone!

Let's talk about something important: **preparation** and **training**. It's like that old saying, "When you're thirsty, it's too late to think about digging a well."

If we're not ready, we simply won't have what we need when the time comes.

Being prepared isn't just about having things in place, it's about being ready to help ourselves and others, too.

For me, I've decided to keep "**digging wells**" in different areas of my life. It's about being proactive and intentional, not waiting until I'm in a tough spot to figure things out.

This kind of mindset can be a game-changer for all of us. By faith, I've chosen to keep moving forward with **intensity** and **focus**. Maybe that's something you can consider for yourself as well?

Here's a verse worth holding onto, one that really speaks to this idea of being prepared and faithful:

Psalm 119:30 (RSV)

"I have chosen the way of faithfulness, I set thy ordinances before me."

Now, let's talk about **decisiveness**. It's such an important quality, being able to make clear, confident decisions without being wishy-washy or double-minded.

Jesus is the perfect example of this. In **Mark 1:40-41 (NRSV)**, a leper comes to Jesus and says, "If you choose, you can make me clean." And Jesus, moved with compassion, immediately responds, "I do choose. Be made clean!"

That's decisiveness in action—no hesitation, just clarity and purpose.

So why should we prepare and train ourselves in life? It's simple: to be useful and ready for every good work.

To be useful for the Master, we need to **clean up** and bring some **order** into our lives.

Think of it like stocking your fridge with good groceries, you gather what you need so it's there when you need it. The same goes for filling our hearts and minds with God's word and wisdom.

Take some time to think about this: Are there areas in your life where you can start "digging wells" or practicing decisiveness? It's all about being ready for whatever comes next.

Perspective #2

The Importance of Preparation and Training in Building a Faithful Life

In life, **preparation** and training are essential components for growth and success. They enable us to move forward, overcome challenges, and build a foundation that supports not only our own needs but also the needs of others.

As we reflect on this idea, it is worth considering the wisdom found in the saying, “When you’re thirsty it’s too late to think about digging a well.”

This serves as a powerful reminder that **preparation must precede the moment of need**. Without it, we risk being unprepared for life’s demands.

Preparation is not merely about thinking of what we need; it is about taking **deliberate steps** to ensure those needs are met when the time comes.

This principle is particularly relevant in our spiritual lives. By preparing and training ourselves in faith, we **cultivate resources** that sustain us and allow us to serve others.

As we align ourselves with this mindset, we begin to understand the importance of decisiveness and commitment in our daily walk.

A Call to Faithful Living

Psalm 119:30 (RSV) offers a profound declaration: “I have chosen the way of faithfulness, I set thy ordinances before me.”

This verse underscores the significance of making **deliberate choices** rooted in faithfulness.

To live faithfully requires us to set God’s principles before us as a guide for our actions and decisions.

It is not enough to passively hope for a life of meaning and purpose; we must actively choose it by positioning our lives with God’s word.

Faithfulness involves preparation. Just as one might dig a well to ensure access to water, we must dig deeply into our spiritual lives, equipping ourselves with the tools and knowledge necessary to navigate life’s challenges.

This process requires discipline, focus, and a willingness to train ourselves in areas that demand growth.

The Decisiveness of Jesus

One of the most inspiring examples of decisiveness can be found in the life of Jesus Christ.

In **Mark 1:40-41** (NRSV), we read:

“A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, ‘If you choose, you can make me clean.’ Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘**I do choose**. Be made clean!’”

This passage highlights Jesus’ unwavering decisiveness. He did not hesitate or waver in His response.

Instead, He acted with compassion and clarity, demonstrating the power of a resolute heart.

His decisiveness not only brought healing to the leper but also revealed His character as a Master who is prepared and willing to act.

As followers of Christ, we are called to model this same decisiveness in our own lives.

Decisiveness stands in contrast to double-mindedness, which can lead to confusion and inaction.

To be decisive means to commit fully to a course of action, guided by faith and purpose.

Why Prepare and Train?

The question arises: Why should we prepare and train our lives? The answer lies in our desire to **be useful for the Master**, prepared for every good work.

Preparation equips us to fulfill our purpose effectively and faithfully. However, this readiness does not happen by accident; it requires deliberate effort.

To be **useful** and **prepared**, we must **first address** areas of **disorderliness** in our lives.

Just as a home must be **cleaned** and **organized** before it can serve as a welcoming space for guests, our hearts and minds must be cleansed and ordered to become vessels for God’s work.

This process involves gathering God’s word and embedding it into our daily lives.

An illustrative analogy is that of gathering groceries and placing them in a refrigerator or cupboard. The act of gathering sustenance is only part of the process; it must also be **stored properly** for **future use**.

Similarly, we must gather spiritual truths from God’s word and store them within us so they are readily available when needed.

A Life-Changing Practice

Preparation and training are **not one-time events**; they are **ongoing practices** that shape our character and deepen our faith.

By committing ourselves to these practices with intensity, we position ourselves to experience transformation. **Faith is not passive; it requires action and dedication.**

As we navigate this journey, let us remember that preparation is an act of faith.

It reflects our trust in God's provision and our commitment to being ready for whatever lies ahead.

By choosing faithfulness and decisiveness, we line up with God's purposes and become instruments of His work.

Conclusion

In conclusion, preparation and training are essential for building a faithful life.

They enable us to respond effectively to life's challenges while remaining grounded in God's word.

By **choosing** the way of faithfulness and embracing decisiveness, we position ourselves to be useful for the Master and prepared for every good work.

Let us take inspiration from Jesus' example of decisiveness and commit ourselves to digging deeply into all areas of our lives.

Through preparation, training, and faithfulness, we can create a foundation that not only **sustains** us but also **empowers** us to serve others with **compassion** and **purpose**.

As we continue on this path, may we discover the life-changing insights that come from living purposefully for God's glory.

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