



PASTOR

Oscar Garcia

LOCATION

COTTON BOLL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
8540 W Butler Dr, Peoria, AZ 85345

DATE:

Sunday, 07/07/2024

DETERMINATION

COMES WITH A COST

FOR TO ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST...

Bible Reference: Philippians 1:21

Paul, finding himself in chains placed on him by Rome, alone with no one to lift him up, continued to proclaim Christ, standing on the Rock of Truth.

Paul's confession was the Rock he stood on.

Jesus told Peter, "On this rock I will build my church". IT WAS THE CONFESSION WHICH IS THE ROCK

NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL!

Bible Reference: Hebrews 12:2 & Romans 1:16

Paul persevered through doubts and attacks, knowing that the message he preached had POWER to save the lost.

- 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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:2
- For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Rom 1:16

In like manner, we are to keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. We are to remember that Christ suffered, clinging to the cross - and so we too can suffer and cling to His promises and finish the race.

WHAT DOES THE "COST" LOOK LIKE?

Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 11:23 - 33 MSG version

I've worked much harder, been jailed more often, beaten up more times than I can count, and at death's door time after time. I've been flogged five times with the Jews' thirty-nine lashes, beaten by Roman rods three times, pummeled with rocks once. I've been shipwrecked three times, and immersed in the open sea for a night and a day. In hard traveling year in and year out, I've had to ford rivers, fend off robbers, struggle with friends, struggle with foes. I've been at risk in the city, at risk in the country, endangered by desert sun and sea storm, and betrayed by those I thought were my brothers. I've known drudgery and hard labor, many a long and lonely night without sleep, many a missed meal, blasted by the cold, naked to the weather. And that's not the half of it, when you throw in the daily pressures and anxieties of all the churches. When someone gets to the end of his rope, I feel the desperation in my bones. When someone is duped into sin, an angry fire burns in my gut. If I have to "brag" about myself, I'll brag about the humiliations that make me like Jesus. The eternal and blessed God and Father of our Master Jesus knows I'm not lying. Remember the time I was in Damascus and the governor of King Aretas posted guards at the city gates to arrest me? I crawled through a window in the wall, was let down in a basket, and had to run for my life.



BIBLE REFERENCES

- Philippians 1:21
- Hebrews 12:2
- Romans 1:16
- 2 Corinthians 11:23 - 33
- Acts 19:2
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- Psalms 150:105
- Philippians 4:8
- 2 Timothy 2:8 - 10

FOR IT IS GOD WHO WORKETH IN YOU...

Bible Reference: Philippians 2: 12 & 13

Although trials and tribulations come, we are to push forward with fear and trembling, working in God's Kingdom, putting to good use, the gifts and plans God has already prepared for us to do in His will.

GOD'S LOVE GIVES US CONFIDENCE TO REMAIN DETERMINED

Bible Reference: Romans 8:35 - 37

In the midst of trouble or pain, God's love and faithfulness reminds us that nothing can separate us from Him. But it is still our choice to remain. Will we walk away from God when problems arise, or will we dig our heels in and cling to His love, knowing that He is worthy of our faithfulness?

Bible Reference: 2 Timothy 1:7

The Holy Spirit enables us not only to live in power and to love our neighbor, but also to have self control.

Bible Reference: Philippians 4:8

We are to keep our minds on what is good

- God can and will carry us through if we let Him.
- We MUST practice self control when our minds try to go rogue and the enemy throws his fiery darts of manipulation, depression, chaos, and discouragement.
- God's Spirit and Word enables us to win in the battle of the mind.

Daily Bible reading and prayer are a must in the life of the Christian who wishes to complete their task and remain determined to follow Christ.

Like Paul, we must remain in communion with Christ if we are to witness the power of God in our lives and in the lives of the people around us.

"So that handkerchiefs or towels or aprons which had touched his skin were carried away and put upon the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them." Acts 19:12

THIS WALK CAN BE A LONELY WALK

But well worth it in the end

The further we go in this journey, the lonelier the road can get. When you are determined to pay the cost of following Christ, you may find that few will follow. This can hurt but God's Word and Spirit will enable us to stay the course, be faithful, and forgive along the way.

Acts 24:16 Amplified Bible

Therefore I always exercise and discipline myself [mortifying my body, deadening my carnal affections, bodily appetites, and worldly desires, endeavoring in all respects] to have a clear (unshaken, blameless) conscience, void of offense toward God and toward men.



DETERMINATION IN FAITH

1. PERSONAL REFLECTION

WHAT HAS BEEN THE COST OF YOUR DETERMINATION TO FOLLOW CHRIST?

- FRIENDS
- FAMILY
- HEALTH
- MONEY

2. FOR TO ME TO _____ IS CHRIST, AND TO ___ IS _____ . PHILIPPIANS 1:21

3. OPEN ENDED RESPONSE.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU DRAW STRENGTH FROM READING THE BIBLE AND PRAYING TO GOD WHEN YOU FACE CHALLENGES?

CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER

NEVER/OCCASSIONALLY/FREQUENTLY/ALWAYS

4. I AM NOT _____ OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST,

----- ROMANS 1:16.

5. TRUE OR FALSE?

YOUR PROBLEMS ARE PROOF THAT GOD IS MAD AT YOU. ROMANS 8:35

6. THE BATTLE OF THE MIND

For God hath not given us the _____ of _____, but of _____ and of _____, and of a sound _____.