

moral will is well-established. So, why are so many Christians desperately searching for God’s plans for their lives? Why did so many people—including many nonbelievers—buy and read *Purpose-Driven Life*? Because at the very core of our being, we know that a life of meaning is impossible apart from God.

But many of us are stuck because we want to live on our own terms and sprinkle a little spirituality in when it’s convenient. We often are entertained by things that break God’s heart. We live with no regard for God’s moral standards. We ignore what the Bible says about the consequences of causing others to stumble because we believe life is all about us. We aren’t really that interested in letting our relationship with God interfere with living life the way we want.



Watch the Video

View part **two** of the DVD session entitled **Yard Work**.

The Main Point: Obedience requires courage. If we are going to obey God, we’re going to face hostility. The Israelites faced pagan armies; we face cultural armies. The Israelites were tempted to water down their faith with elements self-gratifying idol worship. We are tempted to make our faith all about us and our comfort. Facing the obstacles of becoming the nation God intended would take great courage on the part of Israel’s leaders. Facing the obstacles to becoming the people God wants us to be takes just as much courage.

It’s not easy to be a maturing believer in a world where plenty of people have read every *Left Behind* novel but have never read the Book of Revelation. Our passion for being religious sometimes exceeds our passion for spiritual growth. We ask, “What must I do?” rather than, “What does God expect of me?” We’re more concerned about doing the minimum required to assure our place in heaven.

We need more Joshuas in our world. We need people who respond to God with immediate obedience. We need people who are more influenced by God than by the media. We need believers who will march fearlessly into the hostile world more concerned about disappointing God than about being accepted by the godless.

Making God our first priority isn’t easy because it’s countercultural. We often face more discouragement than encouragement. That’s why God told Joshua to be strong and courageous. The same advice goes for you and me. If we live within God’s moral will, participate in His providential will, learn His Word and His principles, and make serving Him our passion, He will be with us wherever we go.

notes

Notes section with 20 horizontal lines for writing.

personal bible study journal

Passage:

Date Read:

What is happening in my life right now?

This Column

Fill this in because God often speaks to us about the things happening in our lives.

CORE IDEA

BASIC PRINCIPLE

RELATED PASSAGES

CONNECTION TO JESUS

LIFE RELEVANCE

TOMORROW'S EXPECTATIONS

Core Idea

Can you summarize the passage in one word?

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REFLECTIONS