

Part 6 F.A.C.E. our Goliath

Be on time Work hard

(Two perspectives)

Perspective #1

Welcome all believers in Christ!

I wanted to share some thoughts with you about living a life that's on point and aligned with our faith.

It's all about showing up, working hard, and keeping Jesus at the center of everything we do.
Let's break it down.

Be On Time

Think about starting a new job—being on time is crucial, right? It shows respect and responsibility.

The same goes for our relationship with Jesus. Let's make Him the first priority in our schedule. **Matthew 6:33** reminds us to seek His kingdom first, and everything else will fall into place.

Whether it's prayer, study, or just showing up for Him daily, being “on time” with Jesus is key.

Work Hard

Whatever we do, let's do it with all our hearts as if we're working for the Lord (**Colossians 3:23**).

God expects us to be **truthful, dependable, attentive, and respectful** in how we live and serve.

It's not just about doing tasks but doing them well for His glory. When we work hard for His kingdom, we're not just doing a job, we're fulfilling a purpose.

Overcoming Idolatry

Here's something else to think about: putting anything before God is idolatry. It can sneak into our lives in subtle ways—work, hobbies, even relationships.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 gives us a **blueprint** to keep God at the center. It talks about gathering His word, teaching it, talking about it, and creatively keeping His truths in front of us. Let's not let anything take God's place in our hearts.

F.A.C.E. Your Challenges

We've been using the acrostic F.A.C.E.—**Faith, Actions, Charged, Effective**—as a tool to tackle life's challenges. Faith means being fully convinced of God's promises (**Romans 4:20-21**).

Actions mean living out what we know (**James 2:20**). Staying Charged is about staying spiritually energized (**1 Corinthians 14:4**), and being Effective is about being the salt of the earth (**Matthew 5:13**). This simple tool can help us stay focused and walk worthy of our calling.

Walk Worthy

Speaking of walking worthy, **Ephesians 4:1** encourages us to live in a way that reflects our calling. That means developing character traits like sincerity, determination, and respect.

Paul prayed for believers to live lives that please God by growing spiritually and doing good works (**Colossians 1:10**). It's not always easy, but it's worth it.

One short account

I want to share a quick account that touched my heart. I helped a lady at the grocery store who had lost her husband a year ago.

She told me how her husband used to bag their groceries, and she was so grateful I stepped in to help. I didn't realize how much that small act meant to her until she shared about her husband.

It reminded me that people are more important than tasks and that God can use us in unexpected ways when we're faithful and available.

Final Thought

When all said and done, it's about keeping Jesus first, working hard for His kingdom, and living a life that reflects His love.

Let's strive to be on time with Him, put off idolatry, and walk worthy of our calling. We're all a work in progress, but with His help, we can make a difference.

Keep pressing on in Jesus' name!

Perspective #2

Facing Our Goliath: Walking Worthy and Putting Jesus First

In our journey of faith, we often encounter challenges that seem insurmountable—our Goliaths. These obstacles **test** our dedication, character, and priorities.

However, by positioning our lives with biblical principles, we can overcome these challenges and grow in our relationship with God.

This part of the series explores **two essential principles** for spiritual growth: **being on time** with Jesus and **working hard** for His kingdom, while emphasizing the importance of walking worthy of our divine calling.

Be On Time: Prioritizing Jesus in Our Lives

The importance of punctuality is often stressed in the workplace. Being on time reflects discipline, respect, and commitment.

Similarly, in our spiritual walk, **we must be "on time" with Jesus**. This means placing Him first in our schedule, showing up for our spiritual responsibilities, and ensuring He remains our top priority.

Matthew 6:33 (RSV) reminds us: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

Placing Jesus first is not just a matter of **routine** but a **reflection** of our heart's **arrangement** with His will. It is through prayer, study, and intentional focus that we ensure Jesus occupies the centerpiece of our lives.

Being on time with Jesus also involves **consistency** in our devotion. Just as employees are reminded to be punctual for their safety and job security, we must remind ourselves that **spiritual discipline safeguards our faith** and keeps us aligned with God's purpose.

Work Hard: Serving the Kingdom with Excellence

The second principle is working hard—not just for earthly rewards but for the glory of God. **Colossians 3:23** (RSV) instructs us: "Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men." When we approach our work—whether in ministry or daily life—with a mindset of serving God, we reflect His character and fulfill His purpose.

To work hard for the kingdom means embodying qualities such as truthfulness, sincerity, dependability, and determination.

It requires a heart that is attentive to God's leading and sensitive to the needs of others. As **Philippians 3:1** (NCV) states: "My brothers and sisters, be full of joy in the Lord. It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and **it will help you to be more ready.**"

A joyful heart fuels our efforts and keeps us steadfast in our labor for Christ.

Overcoming Idolatry: Keeping Jesus First

One of the greatest challenges believers' faces is the subtle temptation of idolatry—placing things or people above God. **Deuteronomy 6:6-9** provides timeless principles to guard against this:

"And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (RSV)

These verses emphasize gathering God's Word through study and prayer, placing it upon our hearts, teaching it diligently to others, and integrating it into every aspect of life. By doing so, we ensure that God remains at the forefront of our thoughts and actions.

Idolatry grieves the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) because it diverts our worship away from God. As believers, we must actively guard against anything that **competes with God's rightful place in our lives**. This requires intentionality in **prioritizing** Him above all else.

The Acrostic F.A.C.E.: A Tool for Spiritual Growth

To face our Goliaths effectively, we can use the Acrostic F.A.C.E., which offers practical steps for spiritual growth:

- 1. Faith** – Be fully convinced of God's promises (**Romans 4:20-21**).
- 2. Actions** – Combine knowledge with actions (**Hebrews 4:2; James 2:20**).
- 3. Charged** – Stay spiritually charged through prayer, including speaking in tongues (**1 Corinthians 14:4**).
- 4. Effective** – Be salt in the world, influencing others for Christ (**Matthew 5:13**).

This acrostic serves as a tool in our spiritual toolbox, equipping us to walk worthy of our calling and resist idolatry.

Walking Worthy: Developing Christlike Character

Walking worthy of our calling requires deliberate character development. **Ephesians 4:1** (NKJV) urges us: "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called."

To walk worthy means positioning our behavior with God's standards and reflecting His character in all we do.

Paul's letters to the **Ephesians** and **Colossians** emphasize putting off the old self and putting on the new self—marked by righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 1:10 (NKJV) echoes this call: "That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

One way to develop Christlike character is by following Timothy's example.

In **Philippians 2:19-22** (NKJV), Paul commends Timothy for his **proven character** and selfless care for others. Timothy's life demonstrates that walking worthy involves serving others with **sincerity** and **humility**.

Practical Application: Ministry in Everyday Life

Walking worthy also means **recognizing opportunities for ministry** in everyday life. A simple act of kindness can have a profound impact on someone's heart.

For example, helping a grieving woman at a grocery store by bagging her groceries may seem small but can minister deeply to her spirit. Such acts reflect God's love and remind us that **people are more important than tasks or jobs**.

When we are on time with Jesus through prayer and study, and when we work hard for His kingdom with integrity and compassion, God uses us in extraordinary ways.

He entrusts us with opportunities to serve others because **He knows we will represent Him well**.

Conclusion: Facing Our Goliaths with Faith

To face our Goliaths—whether they are challenges, distractions, or temptations—we must prioritize Jesus in our lives, work diligently for His kingdom, and walk worthy of our calling.

By applying biblical principles such as those found in **Deuteronomy 6:6-9** and using tools like the **F.A.C.E. acrostic**, we can overcome obstacles and grow in Christlikeness.

Let us commit to placing Jesus first on our schedule, working hard with excellence, and developing character that reflects His love.

In doing so, we not only honor God but also become vessels through which He can minister to others.

As Paul reminds us in **Ephesians 4:12** (AMP): "His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints... toward building up Christ's body (the church)."

May we walk worthy of the calling with which we were called, bringing glory to God in **all** that we do, in Jesus' name!

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