

IN SEASON | sermon series

Go with God

*“...proclaim the Message with intensity; keep on your watch. Challenge, warn, and urge your people. Don’t ever quit. **Just keep it simple.**” 2 Timothy 4:2 msgⁱ*

I’ve play well for two holes of golf out of every 9 when I’ve played.

Well, *playing well* for me means I only need *two or three* more shots for each hole than the average golfer.

Not that I didn’t *want* to be a good golfer, I did!

Wanting is only part of doing, and it doesn’t always translate into results.

But not even “playing well” was ever going to be an option at golf for me.

My problem? (*There are many, but for the sake of this message let me focus on two main issues for me.*)

1. **In my excitement to hit the ball**, I often don’t adjust my hands on the handle so the club face is perpendicular with the ball.

Placement of the golfer’s hands and position of the body in the right places during the swing is vital for success.

2. **I try too hard so I rush** my shot, pushing my hands ahead the of club instead of relaxing in my movement *letting the club do the work for me.*

The club is designed to put the proper amount of lift on the ball at the right point of contact and send it toward the target with accurate distance. It doesn't need our help.

We all want to be effective, faithful servants of God!

Living in the moment, being prepared for those instantaneous opportunities takes two players – God and us.

Consider once again that we have been brought back into a relationship with God through Jesus – so when we represent God anytime, **it is Jesus who is working through us.** (2 Corinthians 5:20a)

We have questions about timing and our specific responsibilities in those moments and we wrestle with when to act and what to do.

Am I in the right place and the right time?

Am I offering my hands and positioning my feet where God can use me more effectively for Him?

Am I getting ahead of God – forcing the moment?

Are we believers making decisions for God, or are we waiting for God to work through us?

I'd be much better at faith living if I would just go with God's leading.

Let God do His thing, and...

Just do **YOUR** job

1. God has given us all the TOOLS we need!

God's Word

God told Joshua as he was preparing to lead the Israelites into the land of promise – and He says to us...

*“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, **that you may be successful wherever you go.**” Joshua 1:7*

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so **that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**” 2 Timothy 4:16-17*

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is working in you *right now* to do what God needs done.

*Paul writes, “Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step with the Spirit.**”*

Galatians 5:25

*“I urge you to **live a life worthy of the calling you have received.** ² Be completely **humble and gentle**; be **patient, bearing with one another in love.** ³ Make every effort to **keep the unity of the Spirit** through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:1-3*

By the instruction of the word of God and by the dwelling of God’s Holy Spirit in you...

2. TRUST in God!

God reassures Joshua

“Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

The book of Numbers records that Moses was commanded by God to send out a leader from each tribe of Israel into Canaan, the land promised to

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Among those twelve men were Joshua and Caleb, who were from the tribe of Judah.

Numbers 13:26-31

*“They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ They gave Moses this account: ‘We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸ But **the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.** ²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.’ ³⁰ Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, **‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.’** ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, ‘We can’t attack those people; **they are stronger than we are.**’”*

So the grumblings began...

Numbers 14:1-4

*“That night **all the members of the community** raised their voices and wept aloud. ² **All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron**, and the whole assembly said to them, ‘If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?’ ⁴ And they said to each other, ‘We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.’”*

Numbers 14:7-9

[Then Joshua and Caleb] *“said to the entire Israelite assembly, ‘The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ **If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.** ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the*

land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

God’s favor rests on the ones who trust

Numbers 14:24

“because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.”

Trust and obedience bring blessing and reward.

3. Wait for GOD-LIKE results.

After the Lord had punished those who were sent to explore the land of promise and showed no trust, obedience and no faith-like dependence on God’s promise were put to death.

The people mourned their deaths – then the next morning many of them set out to enter the promised land.

Moses interrupted them and said, *“Why are you disobeying the LORD’s command? This will not succeed! ⁴² Do not go up, because **the LORD is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies,**” (Numbers 14:41-42)*

All of them were defeated by the enemy when they looked over the mountain toward the promised land.

Psalm 32:10

*Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD’s unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.*

Psalm 28:7

*The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.*

*My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.*

God punished the people of Israel for their impatience and disobedience and they waited 40 years before they could enter the land He had set aside for them. Not one of the generation of adults would see the Promised Land.

The Lord spoke to Moses to the people of Israel, *“Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. ³¹ As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. ³² But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness. ³³ Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness. ³⁴ For forty years—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.”*

(Numbers 14:30-34)

If you are going to take seriously the game of golf, you must learn the game, practice your swing, allow the working tool (the club) to perform it's predetermined work and play often.

Likewise, to know how to be in the blessing of the Lord and ready for the Lord's service,

- You must be a student of the word,
- Be obedient to God,
- Accept your responsibility,
- Trust Him, and Him alone – not yourself,
- And Wait on Him to work for you, with you, and in you!

“We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:20b-21

ⁱ All scriptures will be utilizing the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise indicated.