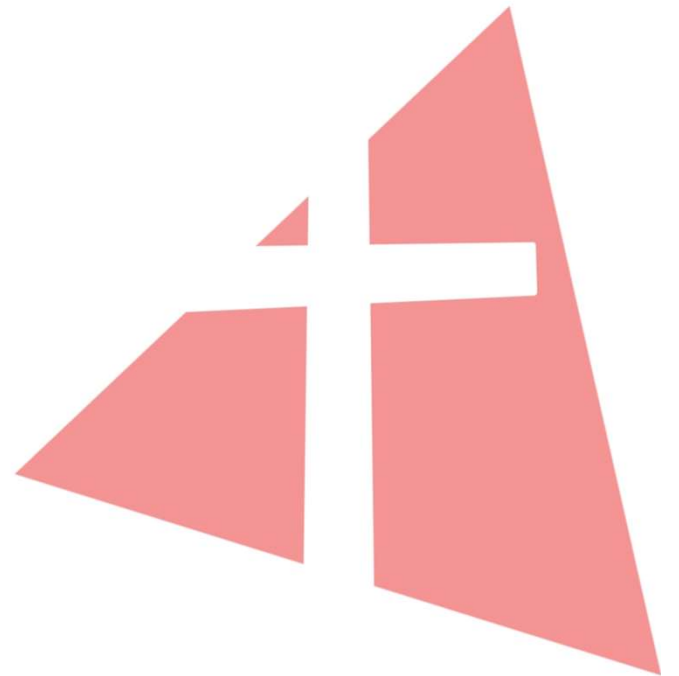


GOD'S WILL, GOD'S WAY

August 06th 2017



THE DEVIL'S SCHEMES

- **The Bible tells us to resist the devil**

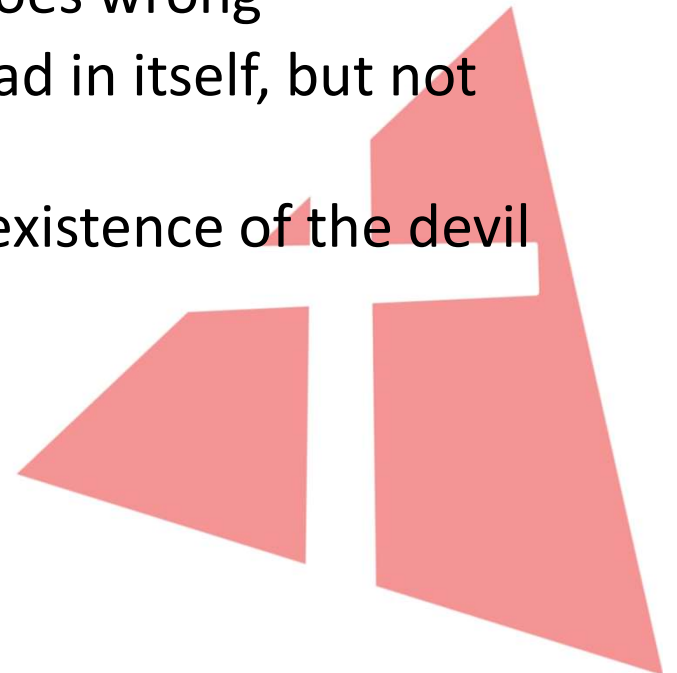
Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

2 Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.



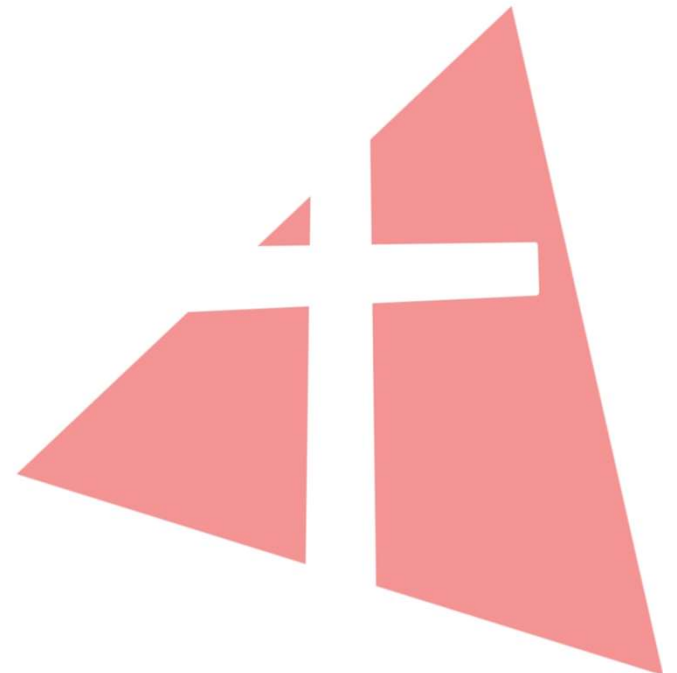
THE DEVIL'S SCHEMES

- **Most Christians have no idea what the devil's schemes are**
 - They blame the devil for everything that goes wrong
 - They pray against the devil (which is not bad in itself, but not enough)
 - They completely ignore or even deny the existence of the devil
 - ...



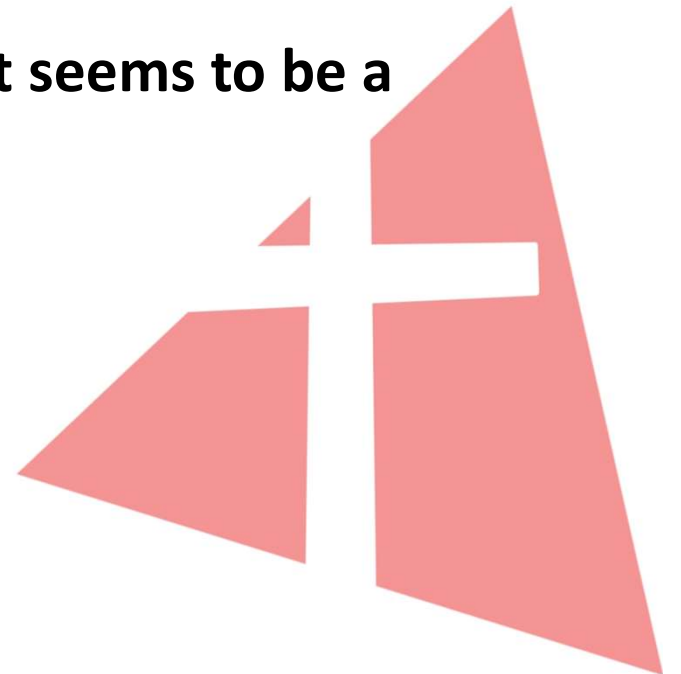
THE DEVIL'S SCHEMES

- **There are multiple aspects to the devil's schemes**
 - Spreading lies
 - Creating doubt
 - Bringing temptations in our lives
 - Denial of consequences
 - ...



FOCUS TODAY

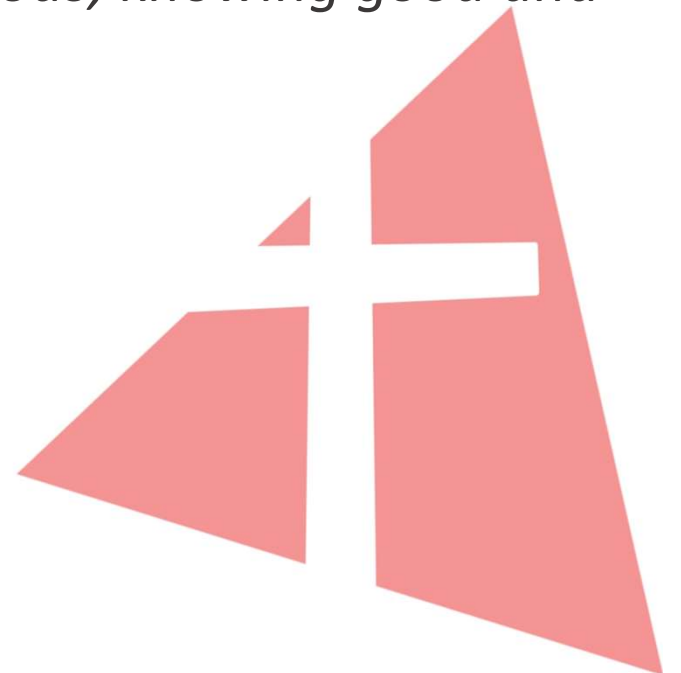
- **The devil is constantly trying to offer us what seems to be a shortcut to our God given desires**



GARDEN OF EDEN

Genesis 3:5 For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

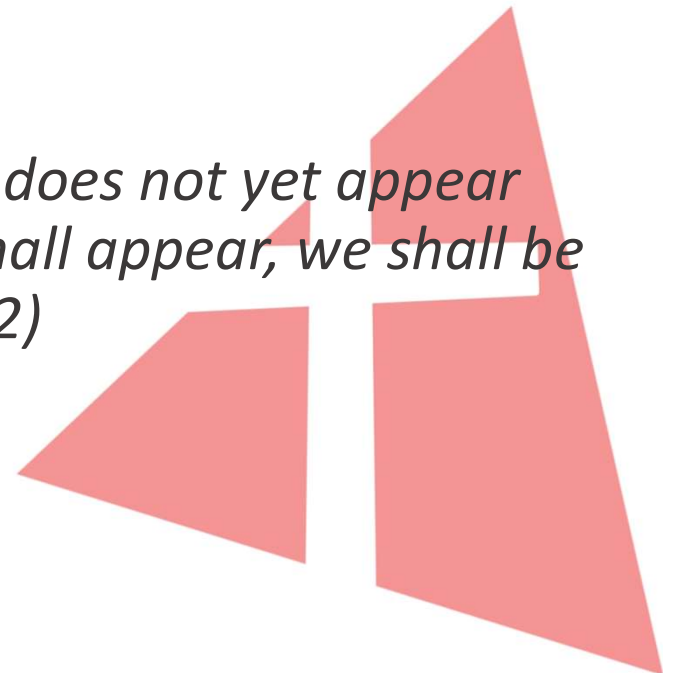
- **Eve has a desire to be like God**
- **Eve has a desire to know good and evil**



EVE'S DESIRES

- They are God given
- They are her (and our) destiny

Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)



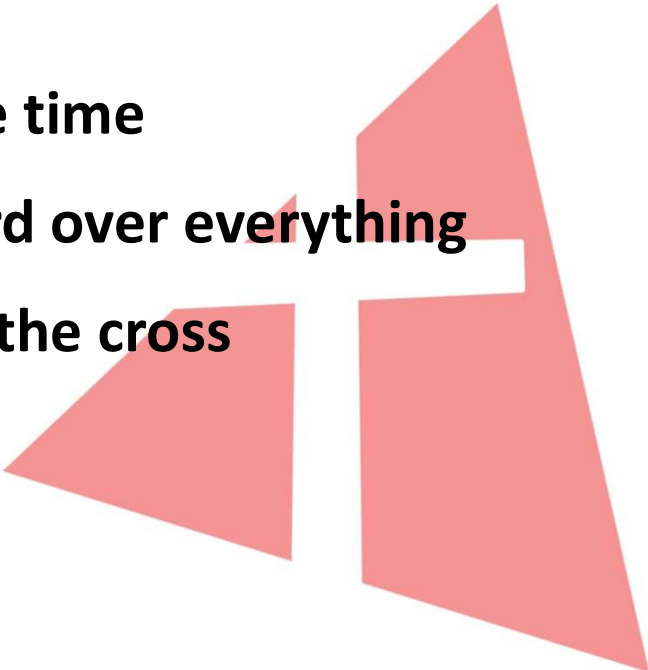
EVE'S DESIRES

- **The devil's temptation was NOT to offer something to Adam and Eve that was off limits for them**
- **The devil's temptation was to fulfill that desire by disobeying God's plan to get there**
 - God wanted them to grow into maturity
 - The devil seemed to offer them a shortcut to that destiny

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: (Genesis 3:22)

JESUS' TEMPTATION

Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil took him up into an exceedingly high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And said unto him, All these things will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me.

- **The devil had control over of the world at the time**
 - **Jesus knew His destiny, to be the king and lord over everything**
 - **Jesus also knew that God's way was through the cross**
 - **The devil seemed to offer Jesus a shortcut**
- 

OUR DESIRES

- **All of us have God given desires**

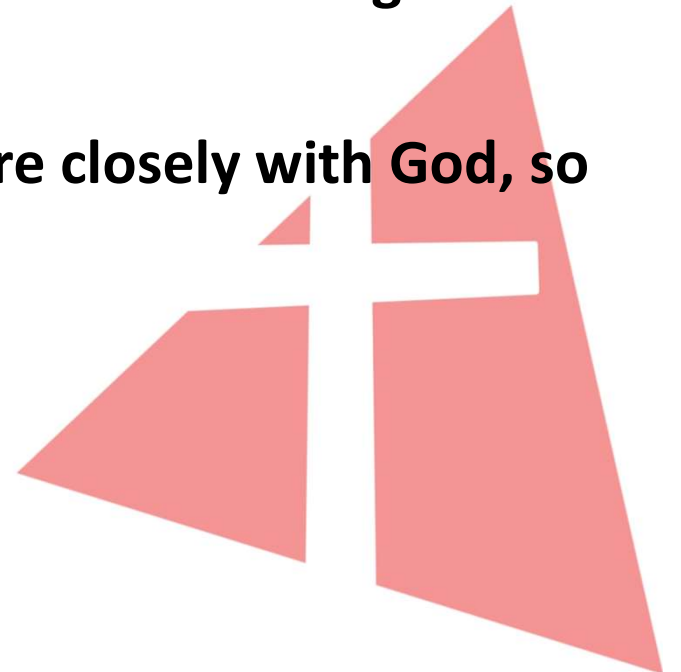
- Purpose
- Significance
- Fulfillment
- Security
- Greatness
- Authority
- Pleasure
- ...

- **These are God given desires that are in all of us, and they are good desires**



OUR DESIRES

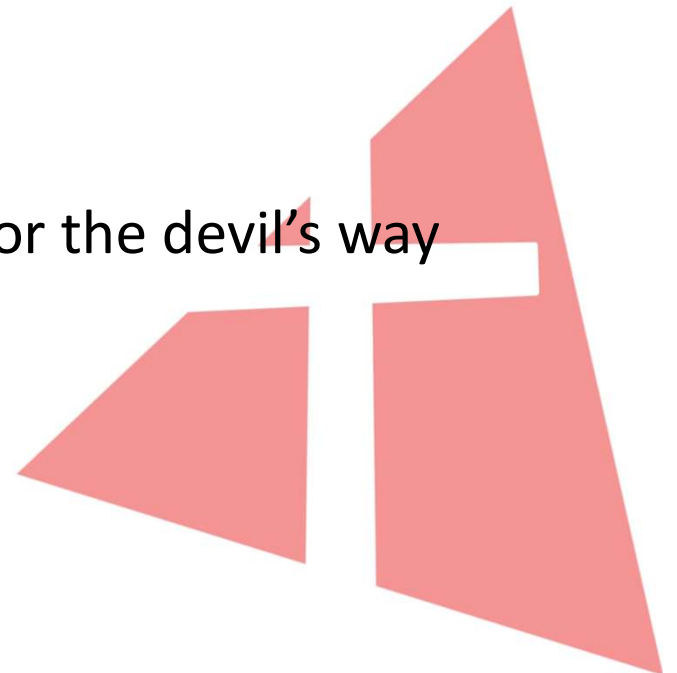
- **We are not ready to receive all the blessings God wants to give to us**
- **Our desires should encourage us to walk more closely with God, so that He will fulfill them**




OUR DESIRES

○ What we want

- God's blessings here and now, our way
- That's the devil's work
- We will never reach what we are looking for the devil's way



GOD'S PLAN

- **God's plan: Mature us step by step until we are ready to receive these blessings**
 - Authority comes with responsibility
 - Possessions come with responsibility
 - Purpose comes with responsibility
 - ...
 - **The devil's plan: Offer these blessings to us here and now, by disobeying God's plan**
 - Of course, the devil doesn't have any plan on keeping his "promises"
- 

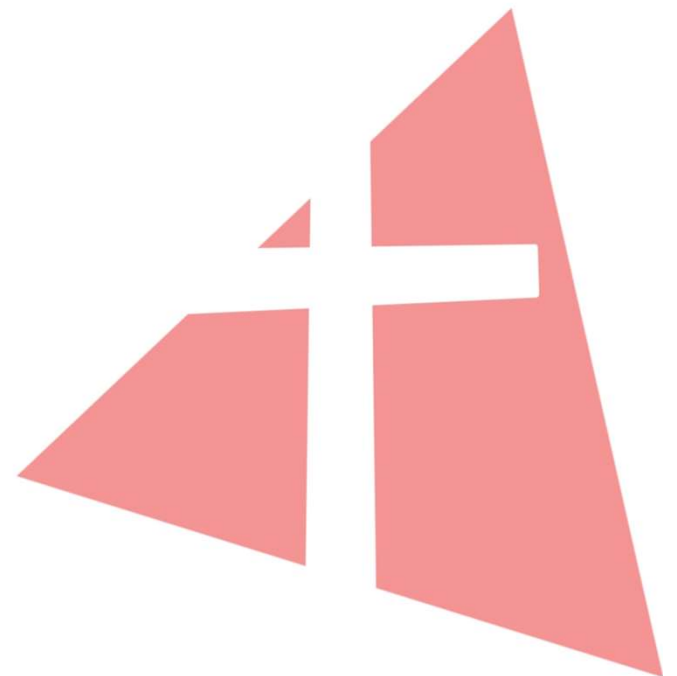
THE RESULT

- **Doing things God's way**
 - Short term difficulties
 - Long term fulfillment and joy
- **Doing things the devil's way**
 - Short term happiness (sometimes not even that)
 - Long term emptiness, despair, guilt, loneliness,...



PATIENCE

- **The fruit of the Spirit**
- **Attribute of love**



PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO FAILED

○ King Saul

- Saul wanted greatness in this life, and lost everything for it (incl. eternal greatness)



PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO FAILED

○ Miriam (Moses' sister)

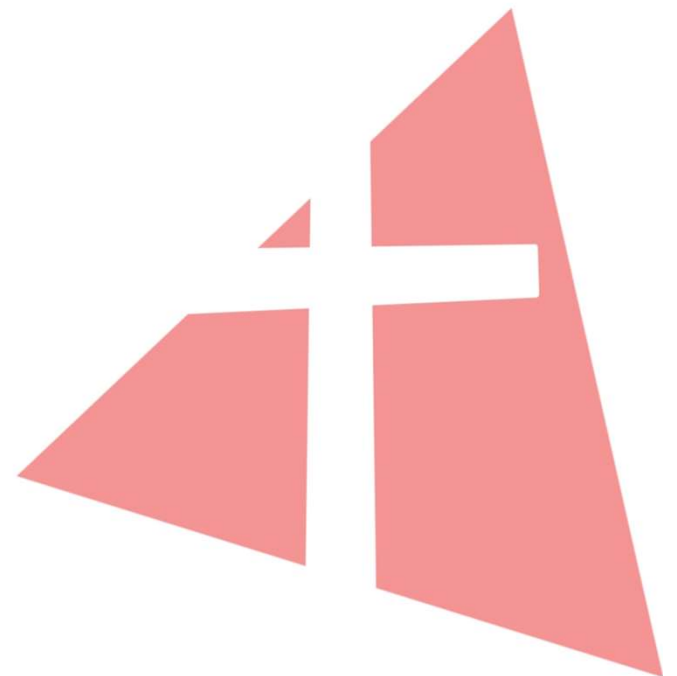
Numbers 12:1-2 And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Has the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? has he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

- Miriam wanted to be great at once too



PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO FAILED

- **Ananias and Sapphira**
 - They wanted earthly security



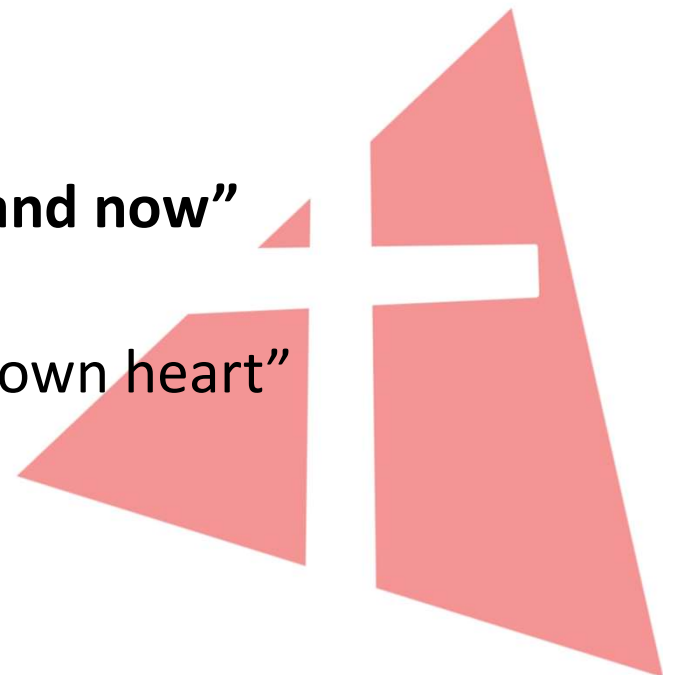
PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO DID IT RIGHT

○ King David

- King Saul trying to kill him
- His own son Absalom trying to kill him

○ David could have solved the problem “here and now”

- But he knew this wasn't God's way
- That's why he is called “a man after God's own heart”



PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO DID IT RIGHT

○ Joseph

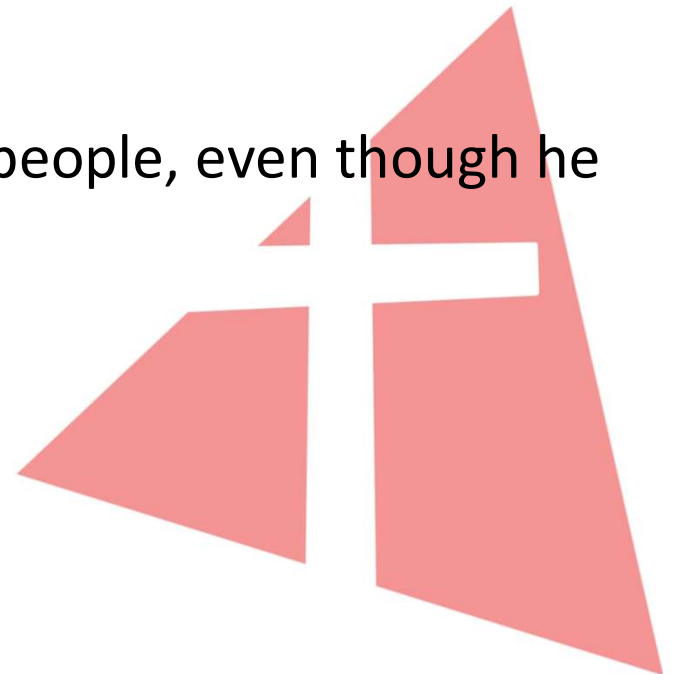
- His life turned around when he started trusting in God



PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO DID IT RIGHT

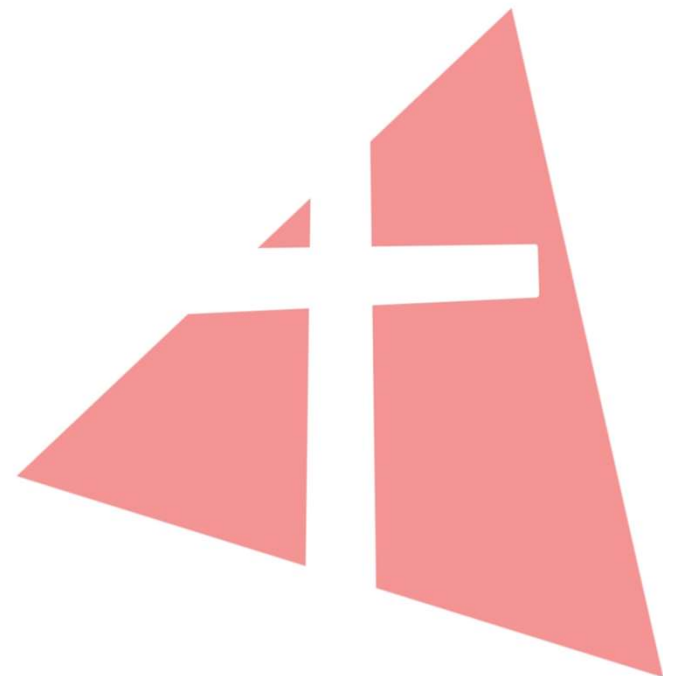
○ Moses

- He was tempted to give up several times
- But when it counted, Moses stood for his people, even though he was offered quicker greatness



PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO DID IT RIGHT

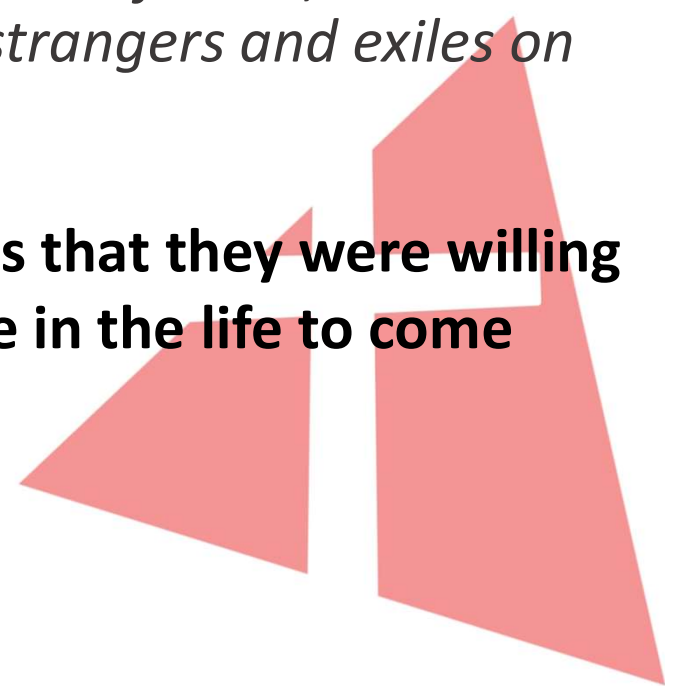
- **John the Baptist**



HEROES OF FAITH

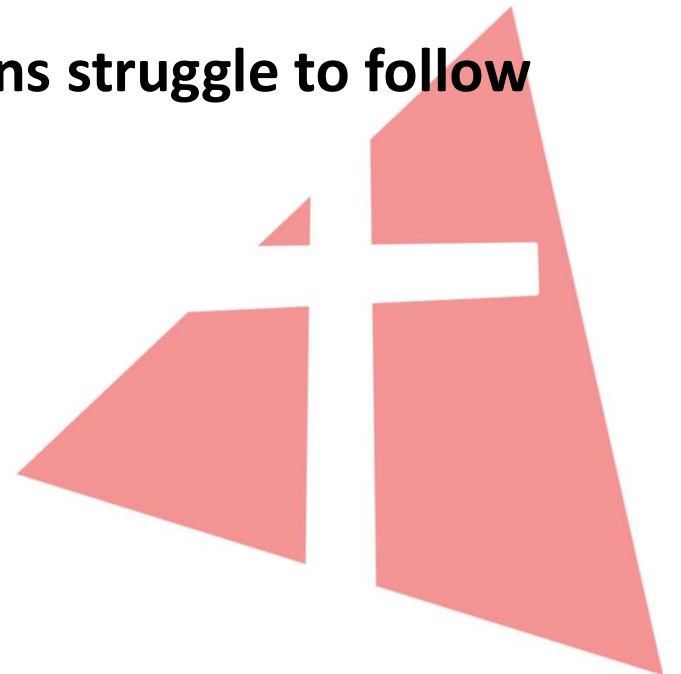
Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

- **What the heroes of Faith had in common was that they were willing to sacrifice the “here and now” for a promise in the life to come**



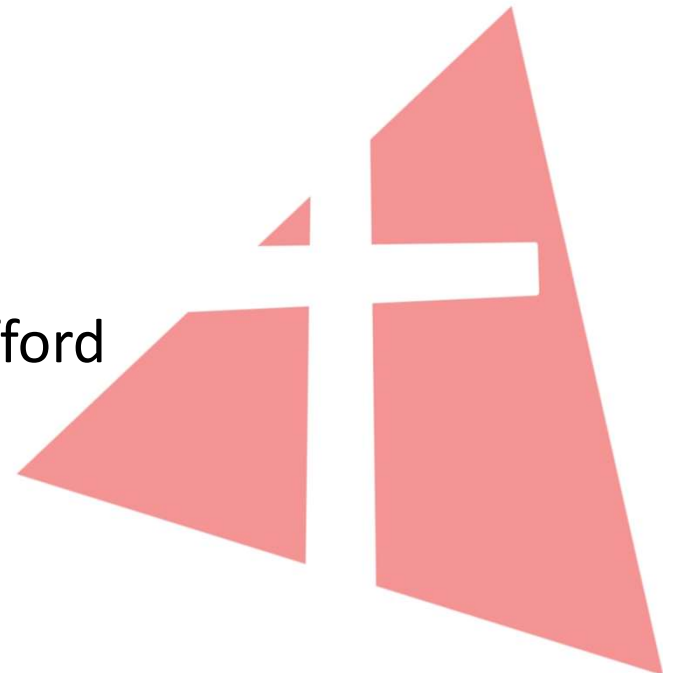
WHAT ABOUT US?

- **There are a lot of areas where many Christians struggle to follow God's way**



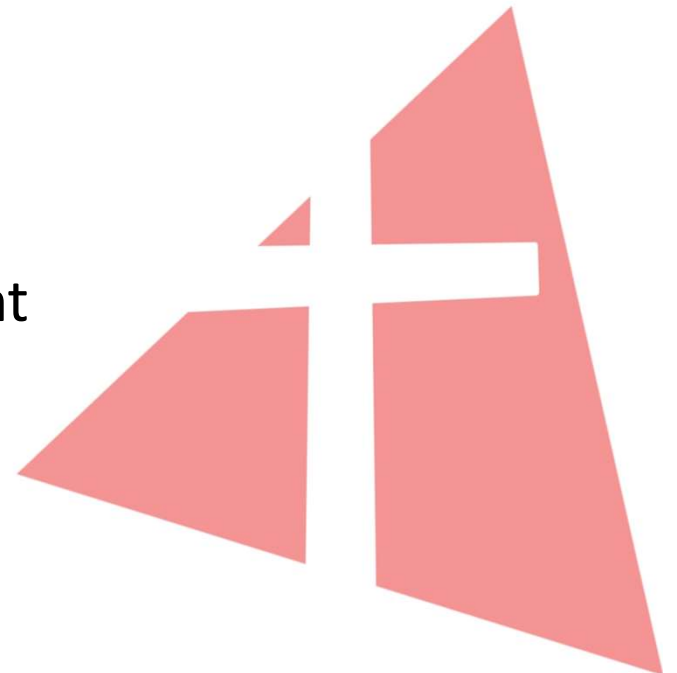
MONEY

- **God promised to provide for all our needs**
- **God's way:**
 - Tithe
 - Save, manage and plan well
 - Work hard
- **The devil "shortcut"**
 - Don't tithe, play it safe
 - Overspend and "enjoy" things you can't afford
 - Cheat and manipulate
 - ...



SEX

- **God promises sexual fulfillment**
- **God's way:**
 - Keep it for the right time: Marriage night
- **The devil's way:**
 - Do it here and now with whoever you want



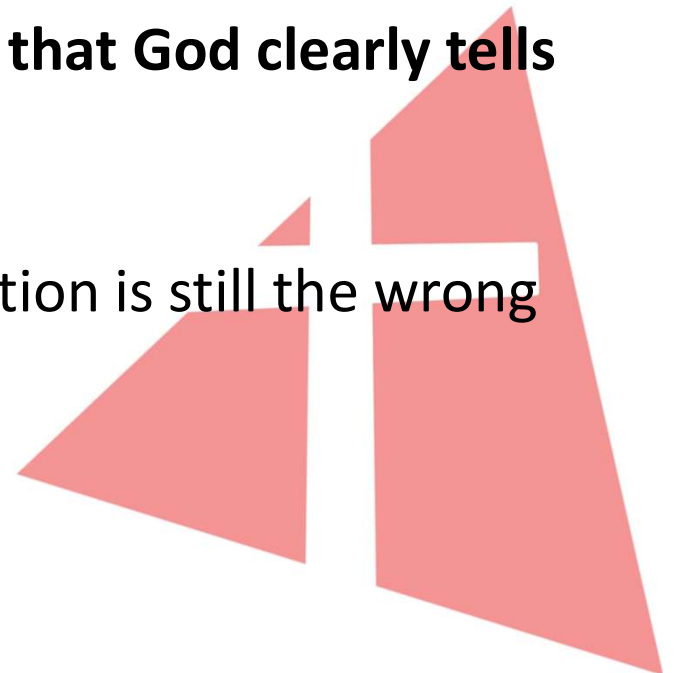
SIGNIFICANCE & POWER

- **God promises significance to us**
- **God's way:**
 - Rule and reign the earth with Christ in prayer now
 - Rule and reign with Him visibly after He returned
- **The devil's way:**
 - Fight your way to the top, no matter the cost




JUST TO BE CLEAR

- **Nothing wrong with worldly success**
 - God wants us to be successful in this life too
- **But it is wrong if along the way we do things that God clearly tells us not to do**
 - The end doesn't justify the means
 - Doing the wrong thing with the right ambition is still the wrong thing

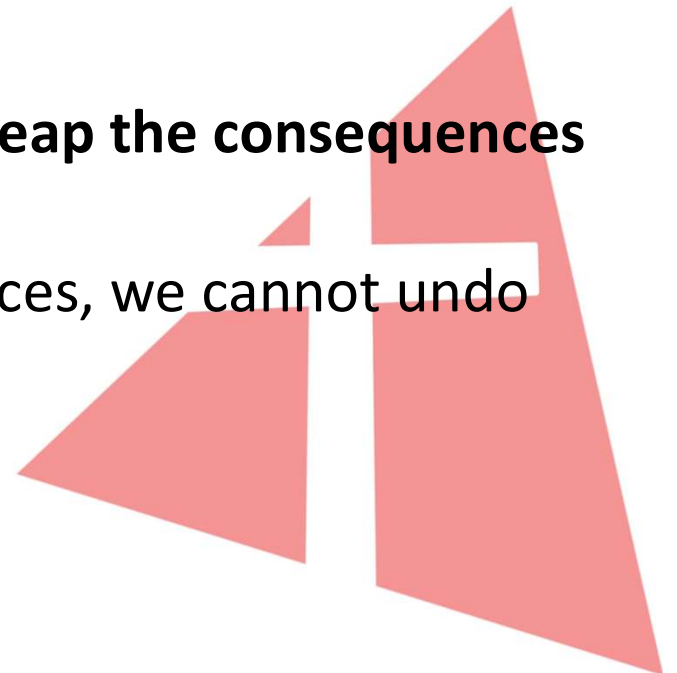


IN CONCLUSION

- **God given desires are not bad, they are wonderful desires**
 - Greatness
 - Security
 - Purpose
 - ...
 - **If we give in to the devil's "shortcut", we'll only ever feel empty and get disappointed**
 - **If we trust in God's ways, we will see glimpses of the fulfillment of His promises in this life, and we'll receive the fullness of them in the life to come**
- 

IN CONCLUSION

- **You and I have a choice, every single day**
 - Do things God's way
 - Do things the devil's way
- **Each of us has to choose today, and we will reap the consequences tomorrow**
 - By the time we experience the consequences, we cannot undo our decision any longer



JOSHUA'S WORDS

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

- **What's your choice?**

