

"Guard Your Heart"

By Mrs. Sojourner

²³ Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Proverb 4:23 (NIV)

Joshua is a prime example of someone who guarded his heart. How do I know this? Look at what he did. Joshua was Moses' aide. When Moses went on Mt. Sinai Joshua went with him. He was also one of the twelve that went to scout out the Promised Land and only he and Caleb trusted God and had the courage to believe the promise despite what the majority believed.

⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and 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 swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them." Numbers 14:6-9 (NIV)

Joshua guarded his heart against fear so when most of



Notes:

[a]
Ex. 24:13

[b]
Num. 13,
14

the Israelites were gripped with fear Joshua's guarded heart was strong and full of faith. He believed God's promise despite what the others said or did.

Joshua humbly did what God put before him and served Moses for years. Later God made Joshua the leader of Israel.

⁹ Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses. Deut. 34:9 (NIV)

Let us follow Joshua's example and guard our hearts and as we do so watch and see how God works mightily through us!

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

"To Believe Or Not To Believe"

(Teaching Sketch)

Acts 26:22-32 (NIV)

Belief is a central part of all we do in life. Whether we are correct or incorrect in our beliefs we do what we do based on what we believe to be true.



cepting the powerful witness in Paul's testimony.

Faith On Trial

Paul was not actually what or who was on trial in this court, it was faith. Faith is

I once had a friend, who was also one of my professors, who told me, "It is not the truth, but what people believe the truth to be, that causes them to cast their ballot the way they do." If the information we use to substantiate our beliefs is faulty then our beliefs will be faulty.

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[a]

belief in action! Faith is belief put into action! It was the actions of Paul, his belief in the Gospel and the speaking of it which brought about Paul standing in front of rulers to defend himself regarding his actions.

This very same thing is true today! The persecution of a person's beliefs only happens when they display their belief by putting it into action/faith. You can pray, you're just not to do it where there are others who might be affected by it either by blessing or offence. Children are not to hear faith by people in government schools because they might be influenced by hearing it. To many, telling someone it is God's desire they be healed is to be judged by the faithless in society as to whether it is right or wrong. This then

Paul On Trial

Paul is on trial in Acts 25-26 before two rulers, Festus and Agrippa, because of his witness and experience. The judgment of these rulers was accurate as to the violation of their laws, but their judgment regarding the witness of Paul regarding Christ was faulty. Paul made no error in his testimony. It was the hearers who were in error in not ac-

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Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

“To Believe Or Not To Believe” (Teaching Sketch)

Acts 26:22-32 (NIV)

Key Scripture:

Acts 26:22-32 (NIV)

²⁴At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

²⁵"I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied.

"What I am saying is true and reasonable. ²⁶The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. ²⁷King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."

²⁸Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"^[a & b]

²⁹Paul replied, "Short time or long—I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."

[a] ²⁸Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadedst me to be a Christian. (KJV)

[b] ²⁸Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadedst me to become a Christian. (1599 Geneva Bible)

Notes:

[a]

Reaching For The Higher Life, Seeking God With All My Heart



Continued from page one.

means those who believe in no God are thought to be unbiased, wise, arbitrators of right and wrong. The only absolute then is the relativism of these “super arbitrators” who want to dictate the belief they find in vogue at the time. The absolute of God’s word could then be defined by the “super arbitrators” as hate speech!

You Must Be Crazy

“To Believe Or Not To Believe” (Teaching Sketch)

Acts 26:22-32 (NIV)

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This statement from an unbeliever demonstrates their lack of understanding. The person giving testimony regarding the Christ is not arguing their point but delivering their testimony. A testimony is a first-hand rendering of a matter or event the person witnessed themselves. It is a personal telling of a matter. A report is a second-hand rendering of a matter. This is a very important distinction. Paul told Agrippa and those present what he, himself, had experienced.

Can You Persuade Me?

²⁸Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?" We, when telling our story, testimony, of what Jesus Christ did for us and what the Holy Spirit does in and through us are simply giving testimony. The hearer may be persuaded by what they hear, but we did not do it. No one comes to Christ unless the Heavenly Father draws them. He does use our testimony. He needs our testimony. God designed it that way. We testify, and God and the hearer do the rest.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal fellowship & sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise, Worship, & Offerings:** (Offerings to be placed in basket during Praise & Worship)

Words of Prophecy or Knowledge if they have been given during “Praise & Worship.” (other times as the Spirit moves)
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

“The Sojourner Live”
Sunday, April 5th
10:00 PM (CST)

Broadcasting a message of The Kingdom Of Blessing.
(Register online)

