

Faith Takes Grit: How to Keep Commitments and Honor Christ
James 5:12
Pastor Josh Weidmann, Senior Pastor

40 WORD SUMMARY: Today, there is a baseline cultural narrative that says telling the truth and doing what you promised is par for the course. But not always. Sometimes it's okay to break promises when it suits you. Sometimes promises are made with extra hype—"on the lives of my children!" And still, when it suits one, promises can be broken. Christianity believes in letting every yes be yes and every no be no. No extra hype is needed, required, or allowed.

Do not promise what you cannot control. - Matthew 5:33, James 5:12

- We live in a culture with a high tolerance for lies. Why is it important for Christians to be people who speak the truth?
- What area(s) of your life do you tend to *not* speak truth in? Why do you think this is difficult for you?

Prayerfully choose what is best or someone else will choose for you. - Psalm 90:12, Ephesians 5:16

- *"An un-prioritized life is a chaotic life."* Does that strike a chord with you in any area of your life? What is that area? What steps can you implement to correct that? How do those steps involve God and His help and direction?
- Look up Ephesians 5:16 and Psalm 90:12. How do these verses speak specifically into your heart/life and into this saying?
- How often do you REALLY involve God in every commitment that you make? (Tell the truth now☺)

Saying no to someone doesn't mean you don't love them. - 2 Timothy 1:17

- How can the saying: "A NO is a stronger YES" be true? Do you have any areas in your life that this can be applied to? Share it with somebody to hold you accountable.
- Do you fear people more than you fear God or do you Fear God more than you fear people? How does that really reveal itself to be true in your speech and in keeping your promises to others?
- How does 2 Timothy 1:17 speak into this?
- Make a list of God honoring priorities, for the new year, that will be your guide for 2020.

Remain faithful to others as God has remained faithful to you. - Isaiah 55:10-11

- Make a list of how God has shown and remained faithful to you in 2019. Make another list of times that you have been unfaithful to others in 2019 (Ouch!). Take time to pray against the temptation to be unfaithful, in word and/or deed, and ask others to pray for you in this area.

Prep for next week:

Read James 5:13-16...daily☺

Ask God “what do you want to teach me in these passages today?”