

No Retreat

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I want you to understand how to live a life of no retreat. No matter what you are facing, no matter what you are going through, and including what we are facing as a nation.

The word “retreat” means to withdraw from an enemy with superior power.

1.) There is no retreat in the Kingdom of God, because there is no superior power to our God. I want to help you to walk in that power. I want to help you today to have no retreat in you.

Luke 9:62 - Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back or retreats is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

- **You can't walk with a God that is moving forward if you are going backward.** We walk “with” God. There is no reverse gear in God, He is always advancing and always triumphs. When you walk with God by faith, there is no retreat and no reverse in you either.
- **Faith in God demands allegiance to Him.** We are told in scripture to fight the “good fight of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12). A good fight is the one you win.
- **Fear demands allegiance as well.** To circumstances, feelings, other people, our own abilities and resources.

2.) In a battle you must determine who you will trust. I TRUST JESUS!

- **You have to make a decision as a Christian who we will trust.** You must have a relationship with God where Jesus is the one in whom you put our trust. As well-meaning as anyone might be, we can't trust human beings that are flesh. But we can trust a living God who loved you so
- **Faith is deciding to move with God without permission from how you feel, circumstances or human beings.**

Revelations 19:11-16 - Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider, Jesus was named Faithful and True, for He judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: KING OF ALL KINGS AND LORD OF ALL LORDS.

3.) The early church knew no retreat. They knew there was no superior power to their God.

Acts 5:27-30 - Having arrested the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!

- **As a Christian no one should govern your life other than Jesus.**

Acts 5:42 - Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 8:1,3-4 - Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen... and a great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison. But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- The church was stuck in Jerusalem for ten years after Jesus had said this to them. They were not reaching the ends of the earth as Jesus proclaimed.
- As this great persecution got worse, the people of God fled for their lives and fear of prison. They did not feel like they were obeying God at the moment.
- What the enemy didn't know was that the evil persecution that drove them from Jerusalem actually dispersed the church.
- As the people fled everywhere they went they preached the Gospel, and Jesus' words became true.
- The church has never gone back for Jerusalem only, it has circled the globe. The message of the Gospel has gone around the world, and God turned what was meant for evil into good.
- We, like the early church, get to decide who we give our allegiance to. **We get to decide whether we advance with our God, or whether we retreat in the face of fear.**

Have you ever come to a place in your life where you are stuck?

How do I take my next step?

How do I get out of my Jerusalem, the place where I am hemmed in?

- Attend church consistently, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25)
- Serve, we have the “help your neighbor” program here at the church along with other opportunities
- Get in or lead a small group, we can help you, available online in many formats (zoom, teams, conference calls)
- Pray throughout the day, join us for unite 714
- Check on an elderly neighbor, give someone a call to encourage them
- Join us for serve day July 11th

Live beyond the fear. It will never give you permission. It will always drive you backwards.

How far from Jerusalem are you going to impact with your life?

How far from Jerusalem are you going to obey God and live for others?

How far from Jerusalem will you be when you die?

AM I ALL IN FOR GOD?