



'THEY RAN!'
LESSONS ON INSTANT
OBEDIENCE
PREPARING FOR THE
FUTURE PART VI

WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

When I was about 14, my brother and I, he is one year older than I, met some young French travellers in our small town in Surrey, England. This was during the hippy time (1970 in this case).

We were not hippies, but these two male travellers from France were a bit older than us and were sitting outside a shop in our home town; they looked quite hippie-fied. We got chatting with them and found out they were just travelling around that summer and were on their way to London. Somehow, and so far they had ended up in our little town!

We asked if they were hungry, they didn't seem to have much money (like most hippies of that day), so my brother and I decided we would RUN home



about a mile away and raid the fridge , or at least ask mum,

if we could give some ham, cheese and bread to them. We took off, with parental permission, running as fast as we could.

I don't remember all the details now, but I remember that feeling of being on a mission. That determination to accomplish the mission and the joy in my heart I felt, and I am sure my brother shared the same feeling. We had never experienced anything like that before, us as young as we were, helping strangers!

We were able to procure some form of food and sandwiches, without too much objection after a breathless explanation to our mother, and then we ran back as fast as our teenage legs would carry us and met the two 'hippies'. We felt a joy at the 'job accomplished' of giving and loving. After all, we are made in the Image of God, and there is nothing more God loves to do than give to the needy, the genuine poor and the meek who were passing through our land for a short period. We were just acting on a strong impulse, which now, looking back, was an experience from the Lord and has always stayed with me! Myself being about 14 years old, at the time.

It was quite a stress for us in one way, so we ran! Ran and ran because we were afraid if we didn't do this quickly, perhaps those two French kindred spirits would have gone or moved on! In our case, we were able to 'do the job' save the French and eventually say good bye to them. We saw they were thankful for God's act of kindness to them through us, and we all had a warm feeling, I am sure. Of course we never saw them ever again as far as we know, we all only remember the experience in our minds and hearts. Praise the Lord.

.....

Over the last few years, in reading my Bible, I have been amazed at how often God or an angel spoke to someone and the person(s) just ran in obedience or hurried up to perform what Christ or the angel told them to do.

The angel or God did not tell them to hurry, except in the case of Christ with Judas Iscariot, but simply gave them a direction or a dream. Here are some examples below with some comments. I can't help also thinking that perhaps God would ask even greater things of us, if He knew we were going to 'run' and do it! Or if we are

older and can't run, we could at least run in our minds and start preparations to carry out God's will quickly!

These following scriptural examples are not in any special order, I pray you enjoy them!

ABRAHAM:

Genesis 18:1-8

1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

3 And said, My LORD, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:

4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:

5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.

6 And Abraham hastened (RAN) into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.

7 And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hastened to dress it.

8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

GENESIS 24:16-18

Eleazar had the same good habit as his master Abraham, in that he also ran!



16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.

17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. 18 And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, (WOW! SHE ALSO RAN! TO FULFIL THE WILL OF God even not knowing it at this time, but being an example of it) and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him (Abraham's anointed servant) drink.

Genesis 24:20

And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels

Genesis 24:28

And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things

sometimes you have to run and tell of bad news. This is perfectly acceptable with the Lord

moving on.....

Joshua 7:22

So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it.

I mean, this is shocking! How slothful we are in areas of our

lives. Joshua sent messengers and did they dawdle over to the tent of the great sinner? NO! THEY RAN! Let us also run, for God's sake!

SAMSON'S BIRTH:

Judges 13:9-11 9 And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field:



but Manoah her husband was not with her. 10 And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day. 11 And Manoah arose, and went after (following slowly after?) his wife (who was running), and came to the man (THE ANGEL), and said unto him, Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am.

Amen! GOD BLESS THE DEAR MOTHER OF SAMSON! SHE DID NOT MESS AROUND, SHE RAN, RIGHT?

AND POSSIBLY THE MOST VALUABLE AND AMAZING VERSE I FEEL, IS THIS ABOUT YOUNG SAMUEL WHO GREW EVENTUALLY INTO BEING A GREAT PROPHET OF GOD: BUT WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG, 4-6 YEARS OLD PERHAPS/MAYBE?)

1 Samuel 3:5

And he ran unto Eli, and

said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

The Lord chose Samuel, for a great ministry, and he learned it from a child, by running to obedience to God's voice! Wow! What a lesson! Even if we today are not young, perhaps you are not even young, we should ask God to make us able to run, (or take immediate action, mentally or spiritually) when we hear the voice of the Lord.

KING DAVID:

One thing that is special about King David is, that he always ran in almost everything he did I pray God will help us to be more like him.

1 Samuel 17:22

And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

1 Samuel 17:48

And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came, and drew nigh to meet David, that David hastened, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:51

Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. (They also ran, but for the wrong reasons!)

Elijah and Elisha both ran in obedience to God.

1 Kings 18:46

And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

1 Kings 19:20

And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

MARY AND JOSEPH

Joseph acted immediately the



very same night after receiving instruction from the angel!

Matthew 2: 13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

ELISHA

2King 13:15-19

15 And Elisha said unto him (the King of Israel), Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows.

16 And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands.

17 And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD's deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians

in Aphek, till thou have consumed them.

18 And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.

19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.

PHILLIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN IN ACTS CHAPTER 8

26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

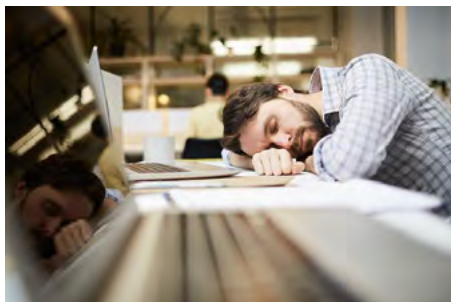
28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readeſt?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

THE DANGERS OF PROCRASTINATION



We see, that for the most part the servants of God were always running in immediate obedience to the voice of God. This is a very valuable lesson. I am sure today, we are being delivered messages from the Lord in a variety of forms; how are we reacting to them? God may be speaking to us with a Bible verse as we read it which comes into our minds. We may have an impression on our hearts, often an urgent impression, to do something, call someone, pray for a situation or person, or help some facet of God's work.

The great danger to taking action is that long word 'pro cras ti na tion'.

Procrastination can be the tool of the enemy to hinder us from reaching the potential God knows we can achieve for Him. The first thing to do after you receive a message from the Lord is to pray about it and how to implement it. Then do not allow procrastination to take hold of you and kick the can down the road of the future, or into the bushes! Take action.

Although we should go slow in some things, once God has spoken, He often expects us to take some action.

Truth from God when it is first given hits our minds and hearts, and we feel an urgency; if we don't act on that, then slowly, we lose that urgency and finally that Truth loses its power over our minds.

'Truth resisted loses its power over the mind'

when Lester Sumrall, was 17 years old, he was dying of TB, he was a rebellious teenager, as he was dying he had a vision, God gave him a choice between a coffin and being a preacher of the Gospel. He only had a very short time to decide as you will see in this excellent video clip from the beginning to minute 5. Please enjoy.

Lester Sumrall Biography 1913-1996 (youtube.com)

LET US RUN WITH PATIENCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US, LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH. Hebrews 12:1-2

Until next week, God willing,

Jerry for the WCF TEAM

GO TO THE ANT, YOU SLUGGARD; CONSIDER ITS WAYS AND BE WISE!
IT HAS NO COMMANDER, NO OVERSEER OR RULER,
YET IT STORES ITS PROVISIONS IN SUMMER
AND GATHERS ITS FOOD AT HARVEST.

PROVERBS 6:6-8



Visit us at:

www.weeklychristianfocus.org



If you enjoyed this week's edition and are not a premium subscriber or if you just wish to help these messages go further, use this link below to donate by either PayPal or debit/credit card Thank you. God bless you.



Get 6 editions of the Weekly Christian Focus completely free, by visiting our web site. You can also become a Premium member. see details on the site.

