

## Simple Faith

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Epic Faith

**Text: Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trusting God to completely lead and guide us sounds great but in many ways it can be unnerving. Seeking direction from God goes against the modern ideal of relying on ourselves. Self reliance is a lie. No one is ever self-reliant we all need each other and we all need the help, wisdom and guidance of God. Our culture teaches us to call our own shots and to take charge of our own lives. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Doing things and making decisions on our own without consulting the Holy Spirit is just like not including your spouse in life changing decisions. We are not our own therefore what we do also affects God.

Jeroboam became king of the 10 northern tribes of Israel after the death of King Solomon. God gave him some great promises. **1 Kings 11:28-38 (NLT)** For a while everything that Jeroboam touched prospered. At some point he became aware of some issues that needed settled, his answer to these problems became his undoing. In just a few years he went from being blessed by God to having God as his enemy. **1 Kings 14:6-9, 12-16 (NLT)**

What could have taken a man from the highs of God's approval to the lows of being forsaken? It all comes down to the way he decided to handle a problem. Although Jeroboam was the King of Ten tribes, Rehoboam was the King of Judah and Jerusalem was still the place where the Jewish people were to come and worship three times a year. Jeroboam was afraid that this would turn the people's loyalty away from him. **1 Kings 12:26-30 (NLT)**

Jeroboam's problems began much like ours do and it is found in the very first part of **1 Kings 12:26 (NLT)** "**Jeroboam thought to himself.**" (NKJV, AMP) Many of our downfalls come when we start dealing with our problems by talking to ourselves instead of praying to God. Jeroboam's whole downfall began with an attempt at cleverness. He started to strategize instead of trusting the promises God had given to him. He tried to "help" things out. When we start thinking to ourselves without including God's word, we will always wind up off track.

It is a horrible mistake when we use human cleverness instead of faith in God. **Isaiah 55:8-9** Any time we try to mix our own strategies in with God's will we are effectively creating a mixture of true and false. We are in essence starting our own religion. God puts the story of Jeroboam in the Bible as a warning. It reminds us that when unbelief gets into a person or a leader that it creates the first bad decision, which leads to a second, which leads to a third until the momentum of bad decisions rolls out of control. God told Jeroboam as long as you walk in My ways and do what is right in My eyes I will bless you. But he decided to make up his own game plan. Unbelief often clothes itself in being smart, creative and innovative. We use cleverness to cover the tracks of our lack of faith.

True faith always keeps first things first. **Matthew 6:33** The Church today is still busy creating new forms of religion just as Jeroboam did. The new models are just as logical and "User friendly", we call it "seeker sensitive" when in all reality the church was never meant for seekers but for the disciples and for the Holy Spirit. True faith is Spirit sensitive.

Jeroboam was more interested in keeping a **crowd** than in proper worship. That is what is happening in many local churches in our day. The Church is the body Christ, the family of God. Soul winning is meant to happen outside of the four walls of the buildings we use for worship and disciple making.

Unbelief talks to itself instead of talking to God. When we talk to ourselves we are not talking to someone very smart, because our outlook is **limited**. Remember God know everything, He is omniscient. He knows the end from the beginning. **Revelation 1:8, Revelation 22:13, Hebrews 12:2** We must always remember that God knows how to fulfill His promises no matter our circumstances.

Jeroboam also turned to some advisors who **reinforced** his disobedience. **1 Kings 12:28(NLT)** If you are headed in the wrong direction you can always find a few people who will agree with you and affirm you. All too often, if we are honest, we know how to find “yes men” that are more interested in being agreeable than in giving righteous guidance. Those who walk by faith surround themselves with those who will always point them towards the **truth** and toward God and His ways. We need Godly people in our lives who will call our sin and bad decisions instead of holding our hands and walking off the cliff with us.

Faith enables us to **see** God on top of our problems. If we only see the problems we get depressed and start making wrong decisions. When we have faith we see God as bigger than any mountain. How big is your God? If God is for you it does not matter how many demons in hell try to oppose you. If God is for you it does not matter what people say about you. Unbelief has a way of causing us to only envision negative things and outcomes. Unbelief loves to paint the bleakest picture it can.

Those who walk in faith have a completely different outlook. **Psalm 23:6** Those who walk in faith are still **realists**. They will admit that they do not know how everything is going to work out but they know their God shall supply a good answer in some way. **Philippians 1:6**

We need to declare war on this idea of cleverness in our lives. There are several things we can do that will keep us from taking things into our own hands. Remember we are in a walk of faith, anytime we take things into our own hands we are no longer walking but **handling**. We need to put things in the hands of God and then follow as He leads.

Things we can do to stop being so clever:

- Come **boldly** to God.
- Come **humbly** broken.
- Ask and **keep** asking until you get direction
- **Wait** on the Lord.
- When God answers, **obey**.