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"HELPING KIDS HOLD ONTO LIFE"

John Greene, Senior Pastor

ISAIAH 7:9 (ESV) "If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all."

I. ARE YOUR KIDS RESILIENT IN THEIR FAITH?

TRUTH: We live in a world more and more difficult and hostile to the things of God. We live in a world where the lines of biblical truth are blurred and confused, and morality is defined by individuals and not by God.

REALITY: We are swimming in a soup of increasingly more post-Christian culture.

TRUTH: Running the race of faith means taking a stand for what is right, what is just, honorable and that honors the thrice holy God who is God (Isaiah 6:3).

QUESTION: What type of faith does it take to stand firm for Christ when no one else believes?

TRUTH: To stand firm when others do not believe takes resilience.

DEFINITION: Resiliency is the ability to recover quickly from difficulties and display toughness, to be able to spring back under pressure, to be able to thrive and be steadfast in the midst of a hard or difficult circumstance or climate.

II. HOW TO BUILD RESILIENT FAITH

1. Be clear on what it means to be a Christian.

INSIGHT: Undefined beliefs are almost impossible to live out and defend.

DEFINITION: The Christian life is the life lived by somebody who's decided to follow Jesus Christ for as long as they live, in every area of their life, and do it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

TRUTH: The Christian life isn't trying; it's trusting, and when we make the choice to follow Christ, He makes the change in our lives.

2. Being a Christian is a call to be different. Romans 12:2 (NLT), "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

TRUTH: We do more damage to the gospel when we advertise our lives, whether in social media or just around town, and then the things we say and how we live don't match.

III. JOIN THE FIGHT OF FAITH.

CHALLENGE: Join the fight of faith; never forget you are in a battle. Ephesians 6:12 (NLT), "For we are not fighting against flesh and blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in heavenly places."

QUESTION: Tomorrow at school and at work there's a battle line drawn, and the only question is this: On which side will you stand?