

JEREMIAH 42:6 Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we send you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.

- Sandpaper has a rough side and a smooth side. Using the smooth side just won't get the job done.
- **Conviction:** Oxford dictionary describes it as a firmly held belief or opinion.
- The Holy Spirit is the ultimate teacher of the human heart.

JOHN 16:7-8 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will **convict** the **world** of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment”

- The word convict in this verse does not mean conviction as someone found guilty of a crime.
- **World:** (Greek=cosmos) not spiritually unsaved but all the physical inhabitants of the earth, saved or not.
- **Convict:** (Greek=elegcho) reprove, (point out a wrong) to confute, (prove to be wrong) admonish, (firmly reprimand or warn) convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke.
- This promise of Jesus was fulfilled at Pentecost: (see **ACTS 1:4, 2:1-4**)

JOHN 2:5 His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.

- What's convenient for me today, will probably change some time in the future
- Conviction will always involve a sacrifice, for great gain:

MARK 10:29-30 “So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life”

- Convenience will never develop a strong foundation:

LUKE 6:47-49 “Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

- A sailor never develops great skill on calm seas

JOSHUA 24:15 “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

- We will always have a choice between what the flesh wants and what the Spirit wants:

GALATIANS 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

- Abraham had to leave all that was familiar and comfortable, in order to be a blessing:

GENESIS 12:1-5 “Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and ***you shall be a blessing***. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.”

- The fulfillment of God’s dream for your life, will require strong conviction and no promise of convenience.

2 KINGS 5:1-14

vs 1 Naaman had stature, but was leprous

vs 5 Naaman determined what the cost would be to be healed, not God

vs 10-11 Naaman expects convenience and God uses a most unlikely and unexpected messenger

vs 12 human reasoning will always oppose God’s unusual ways:

ISAIAH 55:8-9 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts”

LUKE 9:24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it

- Count the cost:

LUKE 14:25-33

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Discuss some of the positive reasons for having convenience on our lives.
2. In what ways can we develop strong convictions about something?
3. Discuss why you think Paul had the strong convictions he had. See **2 TIMOTHY 1:12**