

RENEW

Renewing Faith,
Choosing Courage

This Walk of Faith Is a Challenge!

- **Trusting God is not as easy as we'd like it to be.**
- **Our trust in God is not as strong as we hoped it would be.**

Anyone Can Join This Walk of Faith

Joshua 2:1-11

Then Joshua ... secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land, especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

This Walk of Faith Compels Us to Make Courageous Decisions

The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

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But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax ...)

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Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt,

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and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

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“Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

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**“Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her.
“If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will
treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord
gives us the land.” So she let them down by a
rope through the window, for the house she
lived in was part of the city wall.**

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She said to them, "Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way." The men said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down,

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and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. If anyone goes outside your house into the street, his blood will be on his own head; we will not be responsible....” “Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.” ... And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

Courageous Decisions Will Result in Personal Action

James 2:14-26

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? (It's counterfeit!) 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing,

Courageous Decisions Will Result in Personal Action

and you say, “Goodbye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.”

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But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

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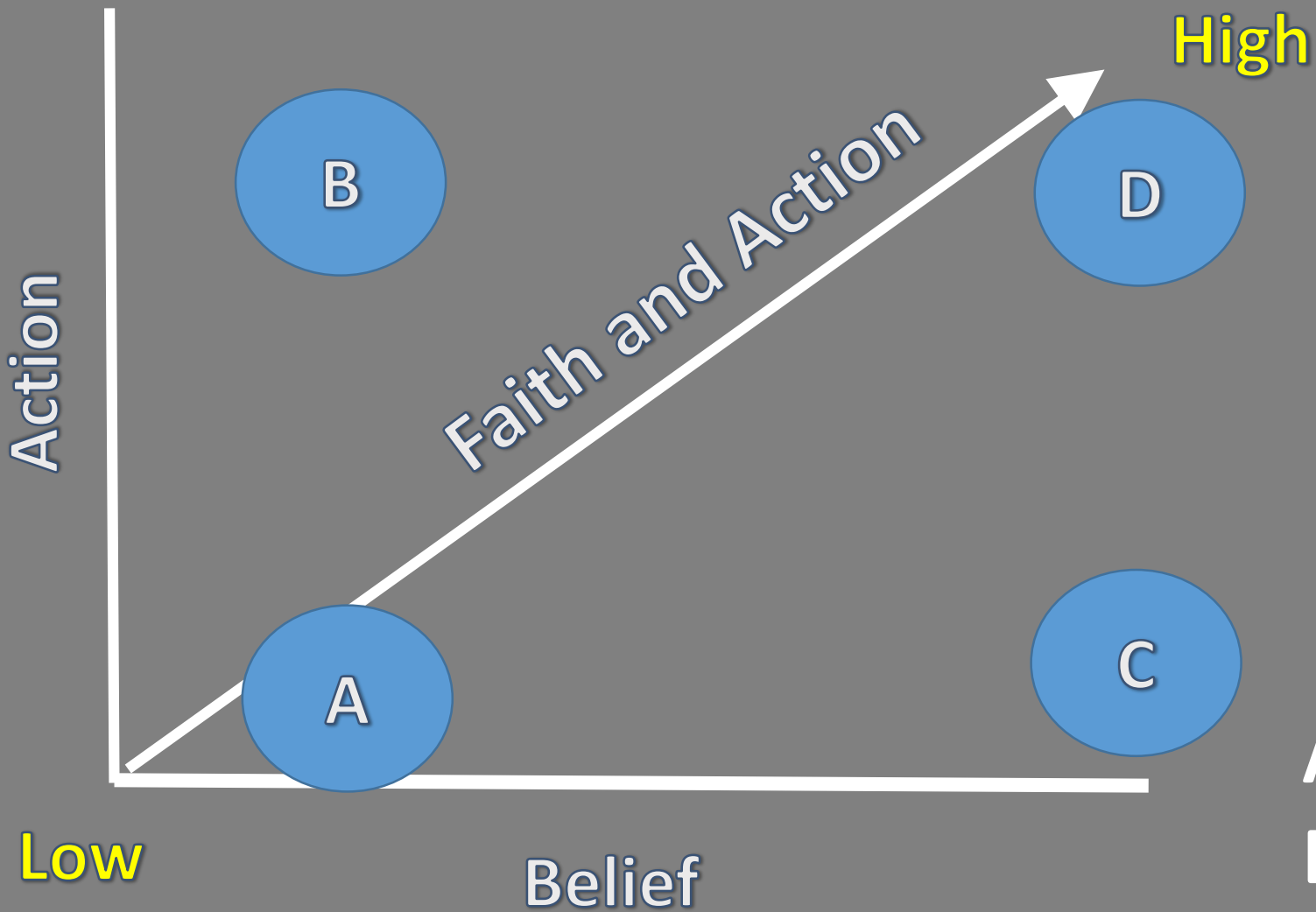
Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.

Courageous Decisions Will Result in Personal Action

And so it happened just as the Scriptures say:
“Abraham believed God, and God counted him
as righteous because of his faith.” He was even
called the friend of God. So you see, we are
shown to be right with God by what we do, not
by faith alone.

Courageous Decisions Will Result in Personal Action

Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.



- A. Low belief, low action
- B. Low belief, high action
- C. High belief, low action
- D. High Belief, high action

Personal Action Will Be Rewarded

Joshua 6:22-25

Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel

...

Personal Action Will Be Rewarded

But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

Personal Action Will Be Rewarded

Hebrews 11:31

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.