

Title: The Fire, Flaws, and Fountain of Faithfulness

Text: Joshua 22

CONNECT: February 28, 2021

Connect to One Another:

- Operation37:31 Memory Challenge: Romans 8:1-8. Ask for someone to quote and explain any one of these verses and celebrate their efforts.
- What was the problem with the church at Laodicea in Rv 3:15-16? Pastor Tim stated that Joshua 22 demonstrates that a flawed, yet fiery faithfulness is better than faithlessness. Explain.

Connect to the WORD:

- Read Joshua 22:5. Within this charge to faithfulness there are three essential elements.
 1. **Obedience**—Though we are justified by faith alone, apart from works, yet obedience is the necessary fruit of true faith. Why is it absurd to say, “I trust God,” but then disobey Him?
 2. **Affection**—Faith is not bare, intellectual assent to doctrines; faith is trusting and treasuring God above all else. How can you tell if you love God?
 3. **Perseverance**—Faith must remain through sin and suffering, trials and tribulations, danger and death. Share a few testimonies of when your faith was tested.
- Read Joshua 22:8-10. Why were the actions of those to the east so suspicious and scrutinized by those on the western side? What did their reactions reveal about them?
- Read Joshua 22:11-20. Why is western Israel’s response to the altar a model of faithfulness for us to follow? (Mt 18:15-17). Discuss each step they took.
 - Seek repentance and restoration before excommunication.
 - Make it clear there is no dispute nor debate about what is right.
 - Be aware of the gravity of the situation, that sin is corporate not individual, which lends urgency to the call.
 - Be willing to walk with your brothers down the hard road of repentance.
- Read Joshua 22:21-29. What was foolish about eastern Israel’s actions? What was faithful about them? What can we learn from this?
- Read Joshua 22:30-34. Who brings about faithfulness and unity? Where does your faith come from? cf. Dt 29:4; 30:6; Jo 22:5

CONNECT to Walk It Out:

- Pray for renewed and continued faithfulness in your own life.
- Pray against faithlessness in your own life.

Meditate on these verses this week:

Joshua 22; Matthew 18:15-17; Ephesians 2:8-10; Deuteronomy 29:4; 30:6