

# “Feast of Trumpets—2024”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Oct. 5, 2024.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—On Thursday, Oct. 3, our congregation came together to celebrate the Feast of Trumpets. I had the opportunity to give a Bible study to the audience in our church hall and to the audience online. The title of the presentation was “Count the Cost, but Trust God.”

Here are some of the concepts that I mentioned in that presentation.

## **Calamity and restoration**

Before I presented three powerful concepts in the presentation, I gave a quick reminder about a general phrase regarding prophecy.

The prophecies of the Bible generally revolve around calamity and restoration. This is certainly true about the prophecies associated with the Feast of Trumpets. The trumpet blast warns people about the calamity that is surrounding the nations. But the trumpet blast is also an announcement of the restoration that the Father and the Son are bringing to the world.

Then, I proceeded to the three powerful concepts.

## **Count the cost**

- Luke 14:26—If we want to be a disciple of the Son of God, we must put Him (and thus His Father) first in our lives — even before the family (which should also be a high priority in our lives).
- Luke 14:27—If we want to be a disciple of the Son of God, we must be willing to bear our cross and follow Him.
- Luke 14:28-30—The Son of God taught the example of counting the cost when building a tower.
- Luke 14:31-32—The Son of God taught the example of counting the cost when considering going to war.

## **Recognize negative but dwell on positive**

It is certainly easy to become consumed by negativity.

Are you aware of the Biblical teaching of recognizing negative, but dwelling on positive?

The order is crucial.

(As a good parent, you probably taught your children this mature key to handling adversity—but it is possible that we sometimes forget the valuable lessons when we ourselves are trying to deal with the challenges of life.)

Notice a lesson in the book of Numbers about the importance of recognizing negative, but dwelling upon positive.

- Numbers 13:1-3—The Lord instructed Moses to choose men (from the tribes of Israel) to spy out the land of Canaan.

- Numbers 13:6—Caleb was chosen from the tribe of Judah.

- Numbers 13:8—Joshua was chosen from the tribe of Ephraim.

- Numbers 13:18-20—Moses gave a listing of what the spies should examine.

Go see what the land is like.

Go see whether the people are strong or weak.

Go see whether the people are few or many.

Go see whether the land is good or bad.

Go see if the cities are like camps (open towns) or strongholds (walled cities).

Go see if the land is rich or poor.

Go see if there are forests or not.

- Numbers 13:20—Be of good courage, and bring back some fruit of the land.

- Numbers 13:26-27—The first part of the report was positive.

- Numbers 13:28-29—Then, the report focused on the challenges.

- Numbers 13:30—Caleb saw what was happening and he sought to nudge them to focus upon the positive.

- Numbers 13:31-34—But the other men continued to focus on the negative (the challenges).

- Numbers 14:6-9—Joshua and Caleb (who recognized the negative) continued to focus on the positive.

- Numbers 14:37-38—Although the other spies died from a plague, Joshua and Caleb remained alive.

## **Trust God**

After disciples count the cost (recognizing the negative), they should trust God (dwelling on the positive).

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4—God comforts His disciples and they learn to comfort other people.

- 2 Corinthians 1:8—Paul described how he and his traveling partners have troubles (being “burdened beyond measure” and “burdened above strength”—being in despair of their life).
- 2 Corinthians 1:9—Instead of trusting in themselves, they sought to trust in God.
- 2 Corinthians 1:10—God has delivered us, He does deliver us and He will deliver us.
- 1 Timothy 4:10—Paul acknowledged that we labor and suffer reproach because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all.
- John 10:28—The Son of God said: “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”
- John 10:29—The Son of God said: “My Father (who has given them to Me) is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

### **We are going to see the King**

Please check out a video on youtube.com (from July 24, 2007) titled “Andraé Crouch ‘Soon and Very Soon.’ ”