THE THREE CHAIRS
6.28.2026

Judges 2:7-12 **– NKJV - Death of Joshua**
7 So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel.
8 Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died *when he was* one hundred and ten years old.
9 And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.
10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, ***another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel***.
Israel's Unfaithfulness
11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the ***Baals***;
12 and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from *among* the gods of the people who *were* all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger.

There are ***three different positions*** concerning ***FAITH***; all of humanity is sitting on one of these areas.

The THREE C's:
1. ***Commitment***
2. 2. ***Compromise***
3. 3. ***Conflict***

The question must be asked today:
Where is our church sitting concerning ***FAITH***?

The answer to this question will be a determining factor to whether you as well as My church ***will experience a Spiritual Breakthrough today!!!***

Reviving the spirit of Leadership is essential for there to be a **reviving** of the church today…
There will be **NO REVIVAL**, ***NO RENEWAL***, and ***NO RELEASE*** in our ministries or church *until we* ***answer the question correctly!!!***

Joshua finds himself coming to the end of his life and he understands the importance of **clarity for *the future*.**

In Joshua 23 we see Joshua bring the leaders together for a time of reflection.
In Joshua 24 we see ***Joshua present the question of a lifetime*** to them in **vs 15**.

Joshua 24:15 **NIV**
15 But ***if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you***, then ***choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve***, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But ***as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord***."

They found themselves **standing at a crossroads** and ***the decision was before them***, **which path *would they choose*?**

I sense in my spirit that ***we are back to that very same challenge*** today.

- **Who will you and I choose to serve this day**???
- Are we aware that ***where we choose to sit today -***
- **WILL** have a ***lasting*** impact on ***future generations***???
- Is there ***CLARITY*** **for the future**???

Let's examine and define *The THREE C's* together:

1. The Chair of *COMMITMENT*

This is a believer who has ***gone beyond*** accepting ***the free gift*** of salvation to willfully being under Christ's ***AUTHORITY*** and ***DIRECTION***…

- **This person knows the Lord** as a personal friend and Savior.
- **They are developing** a meaningful and growing relationship **with him** for themselves and those around them.

Paul calls this walking or *LIVING* in a spiritual state.

***COMMITMENT*:**

- **Bible** – God's Revelation… **The Bible** – set values… **Scripture** – COMMANDS…
- **Dedication to God** – GROWTH – ***What is RIGHT in God's eyes???***

***Joshua* – *Experienced reality* of God firsthand; saw miracles and chose to serve the Lord!!!!**

2. The Chair of <u>COMPROMISE.</u>

This chair represents someone who has received ***<u>NEW LIFE</u>*** in Christ but **hasn't decided** <u>how little or how much</u> **they will follow him**.

- They claim to believe the same truth ***<u>as the person sitting in the 1st chair</u>***
- They even ***follow that of a Christian lifestyle*** in ***<u>many outward appearances</u>***
- But ***<u>instability and inconsistency</u>*** mark their course…

This person often ***<u>runs short on internal strength</u>*** because ***<u>certain bedrock commitments</u>*** are ***<u>absent from</u>*** **their life**…

Paul calls this the *<u>CARNAL</u>* state…

This person **<u>has God on the tip of their tongue</u>** ***but self <u>on the throne of their heart</u>.***

***<u>COMPROMISE</u>*:**

- ***Bible*** – <u>Helpful guide</u>…
- **Fellow Christians** – Set the Values…
- **SAINTS** = <u>Christians</u>…
- **Dedication to Parents** – <u>Plateau</u> – **What is *RIGHT* <u>in your eyes</u>???**

<u>THE ELDERS</u>

- ***<u>Knew about reality</u>* of God secondhand**
- **Told stories**
- **Served God of fathers!!!**

3. The Chair of *<u>CONFLICT</u>*.

This <u>final chair</u> represents someone who <u>has not</u> <u>PERSONALLY</u> <u>responded to God</u>.

- They may have **<u>always known</u>** they ***were not a Christian***
- and may have **consciously rejected him**.
- They may even be ***<u>confused</u> about who he is***…
- They may have **<u>experienced</u>** <u>church and religion</u>,
- but a gulf of ***<u>sin and rebellion lies between them</u> and their creator***…

It is only when they <u>kneel at the cross</u> that the conflict WILL end b<u>etween them and their Creator</u> and HIS plan for their life…

Since this person <u>has never accepted Christ as Savior</u>

- ***Further attempts at <u>spiritual breakthrough</u>***
- ***Will be met with <u>frustrating</u> defeats…***

This is what Paul calls the *<u>NATURAL</u>* state.

***<u>CONFLICT</u>*:**

- **Bible –** <u>Ancient Relic</u>…
- **The World** – <u>sets values</u>…
- **Society** = <u>Culture</u>…

Dedication to SELF – <u>Go with the Flow</u> – **What is right in MY eyes???**

***<u>ANOTHER GENERATION</u>* –**
***<u>Didn't know</u>* the works of God; *<u>unfamiliar with</u>* the miracles of God – served false god's!!!!**

THE <u>COMMITMENT</u> OF THE FIRST CHAIR

- **Relationship with God spawned by a new revelation or spiritual experience**
- **Submitted to the will of God, even though it ostracizes them from the world**
- **Always <u>on guard against the natural slide</u> from *<u>Godliness to Godlessness</u>***
- **Every new Christian <u>sits in the First Chair</u>** just after they get saved
- **JESUS HAS RESERVED <u>A FIRST CHAIR</u> FOR EVERY ONE OF US!**
- ***<u>THIS GENERATION WILL BE SAVED!</u>***

THE <u>COMPROMISE</u> OF THE SECOND CHAIR

- ***They live the lifestyle in which they were raised, <u>not deviating</u> on surface <u>from parent's teaching</u>***
- ***They adopt convictions without understanding the depth of experience in which they developed***
- **They know about their faith, but <u>it doesn't shape their lifestyle</u> - only obey God when convenient**
- ***They succumb to mediocrity, and <u>build a structure emphasizing programs</u>, <u>properties</u> and <u>products</u>***

- They go through the motions of the ***First Chair***, ***but live the lifestyle of the Third Chair***

- ***COMPROMISE: Just like the tribes in Judges 1 who did not drive out the inhabitants of Canaan!***
- ***Those who remain in the Second Chair will inevitably raise Third Chair children***

MOST CHRISTIANS LIVING TODAY SIT IN THE SECOND CHAIR!

- ***THIS GENERATION MAY BE SAVED!***

(Illustration: Second Chair scraping across floor)

THE CONFLICT OF THE THIRD CHAIR

- **They have seen the hypocrites sitting in the Second Chair**

And they have unspoken questions:

1. ***You tell all the stories and use the jargon***, but **where are the miracles in our lives?**
2. ***If God is so important to you***, then ***why don't you obey His Word all of the time?***

***Why the questions*?**

- ***Because Second-Hand faith doesn't have any First-Hand experiences!***

They reject God *primarily because they do not know Him!*

- He is **not as real *as the world is to them***.
- ***God consequently must turn to other people who are open and hungry, bypassing this generation***
- **Greater dedication to self than God; they dismiss burdens, accept *what their forefathers rejected***
- ***They think they are okay because* they sit in the *first chair occasionally***!

They are usually *the last generation of truth*; but the cycle is not inevitable!

Joshua 24:13-15 **-** [13] So I gave you a land on **which you did not toil and cities you did not build**; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves ***that you did not plant***.'
[14] **"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness**. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.
[15] **But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you**, *then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve*, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord**."

Sense the year 2000, most of our leadership has become: **Third Generation believers**.

INDIVIDUALS IN THIS GENERATION MAY HAVE THEIR OWN FIRST CHAIR EXPERIENCE!

THIS GENERATION WILL NOT BE SAVED…

Going back to our text it appears at first glance that ***the leaders of Israel answered correctly***.

We read in Joshua 24:31 - Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel.

However, the question is ***how committed were they in serving the Lord***???

We see Joshua sitting in a place of *COMMITMENT*.

He was fully *committed to obeying God's plan* concerning the children of Israel.

Yet after his death we see the elders; while still serving the Lord, they begin to sit down in the chair of COMPROMISE.

In Judges 1:27-30 -
When they began to experience ***resistance from their enemies*** and it proved difficult to remove them, ***they called off the battle***…

Instead of <u>taking land</u> from their enemy, <u>they shared the land</u>.
They placed the Canaanites under tribute, it seemed like a brilliant plan.

- **<u>Money</u> was rolling in…**
- **No more <u>FIGHTING</u>…**
- **And <u>no more WAR</u>…**
- **They were on <u>good terms</u>!!!**

<u>Soon after</u> - ***they were <u>giving their sons and daughters</u> for intermarriage agreements.***

- It all ***seemed to make sense***, ***RIGHT***???????
- <u>Nothing wrong with</u> sensible ***<u>COMPROMISE</u>***.

<u>Until</u> we look at the generation known as **The Children of the Elders in Judges 2:10-12, 19.**

<u>Judges 2:10-12&19</u> **NIV**
10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, ***<u>another generation</u>*** grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.
11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals.
12 ***<u>They forsook the Lord</u>***, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. ***<u>They followed and worshiped various gods</u>*** of the peoples around them.

<u>They aroused the Lord's anger</u>
19 But when the judge died, ***<u>the people returned to ways even more corrupt</u>*** than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them.
***<u>They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways</u>*.**

The Children of the Elders were a clear description of *<u>people who lived in conflict with God</u>*.

While they <u>may have heard stories</u> of the wilderness journey:

- And **the conquest lead by Joshua**
- ***Their understanding of God* had been <u>shaped</u>**
- <u>By</u> **a generation of** leaders/parents
- <u>Who lived sitting in</u> ***the chair of <u>COMPROMISE</u>***…

This was a group of people that <u>lived as God's people</u> in <u>name only</u>!!!!
Our strategy of HOPE must be one that takes us **back to the Chair of *<u>COMMITMENT</u>***, while we **<u>remove</u> the chair of *<u>COMPROMISE</u>*** from the platforms of the American Church…

	Chair #1	**Chair#2**	**Chair#3**
Definition:	**COMMITMENT**	**COMPROMISE**	**CONFLICT**
Condition:	**Saved, Spiritual**	**Saved, Carnal**	**Unsaved, Natural**
Knows God:	**A Close friend**	**Acquaintance**	**Awareness**
Relates to God:	**Relationship**	**Responsibility**	**Religion**
Serves God:	**God 1st- Self 2nd**	**Self 1st – God 2nd**	**Only**
Shaped by God:	**Scripture**	**Other Christians**	**Society**
Lives by:	**Convictions**	**Beliefs**	**Opinions**
Marital Views:	**Unconditional Covenant**	**Conditional Covenant**	**Legal Convenience**
Approach to Parenting:	**Applies Biblical principles**	**Influenced by biblical principles**	**No principles**
	Confident	**Hopeful**	**Confused**
Parenting Goals:	**Raising Godly Kids**	**Raising Good Christian Kids**	**Raise good successful kids**
	Knows God, 1st Hand faith.	**Knows of God, 2nd hand faith.**	**Does NOT know God, NO faith.**
	Has works.	**Saw Works.**	**Doesn't believe in Works.**
	Submits to the BIBLE.	**Respects the Bible**	**May not even own A Bible…**
***<u>Which Chair</u>* will YOU CHOOSE??**		***<u>Question</u>*: WHERE ARE YOU SITTING?????**	

<u>Isaiah 6:1</u> - I saw *<u>the Lord</u>*, **high and exalted**, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.