



Chapter Nine: Who Really Lives That Way?

INTRODUCTION

At this point, you may have the feeling that devoting yourself wholeheartedly to God is a noble goal but that it's unrealistic and you'll never reach that point. I understand this concern. I have never reached a point where I felt as though I had reached my goal. As the Holy Spirit works in us, we will always be growing – and we will always have further to go. Paul said, “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on” (Phil. 3:12). That's the key: pressing on. But we have a tendency to get discouraged and give up. I am always so thankful for the compelling examples that God has placed in my life. Looking at the faith and love of these ordinary people gives me hope that following Jesus is possible, and that God does use imperfect people to do extraordinary things.

Watch Chapter Nine Video

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who has God put in your life who serves as a good example of what it means to follow Jesus?
2. What character qualities, activities, and attitudes do these people possess that you would like to imitate in your own life? What would it take to make that a reality?
3. What legacy do you want to leave behind? What do you want to be known for?

Read James 5:13-18

4. Why does James refer to Elijah in this passage? What point is he making?
5. How should James' reference to Elijah shape your approach to the Christian life?
6. Do you have any fears about what it would mean if you truly followed God's leading regardless of where He might take you? If so, take a minute to articulate those fears.
7. What do you think God would say to those fears? And describe one or two tangible steps that could help you to overcome these fears.
8. Rather than waiting until you finish the last session of this study, what changes to your emotions, thought processes, and lifestyle can you begin to implement right now? Also note any progress you have made from earlier sessions.

ON YOUR OWN

Now that you're so close to the end of this study, ask God to begin cementing your resolve and moving you down the path that you need to take. Ask that He would continue to increase your love for Him. Ask Him to make your life overflow with that love. Ask Him to help you overcome all of the obstacles and excuses you will encounter.

Read Chapter 10 before the next Session

