

FAITH DRI>EN ENTREPRENEUR

Faithful vs Willful



This guide is intended for personal reflection and to help facilitate a meaningful group discussion. Take a moment to watch the video and read over the guide before your group meeting. Be prepared with some personal examples to help encourage discussion. If helpful, before you meet, print out or email a copy of this guide to all those who will attend the meeting.

Faithful -vs- Willful

THE FINE LINE OF FAITHFULNESS

We all face hinge moments and uncertain challenges. What does it mean for entrepreneurs to be obedient to God and his call in our work as we encounter these moments on our journey? And how do we walk that fine line between being faithful rather than willful in these times?

It can be hard to tell the difference between faithful and willful, especially when you think you're doing the right thing. But here's the litmus test. If we find ourselves thinking, "I want to do God's will, but I just want to do it my way," we might be in trouble.

When you try to do things in your own power you are being willful. It can be disguised by words that seem virtuous like grit, determination, and perseverance. But these traits can have us traveling apart from God, seeking our power, not his. This leaves us depleted, tired, and lonely because it's all done apart from him and the energy and love that comes from co-creating with God, under His power for His glory.

Another way to look at it is the difference between "contending"—what God has directed you to do—and "striving"—what you want to do.

Contending means you bring all that you are in obedience to God, but surrender your desire for control. You release the outcomes to him. Contending is a position of dependency and entrusting the results, timing, funding, everything to God.

It's important for us to remember that God doesn't need us to make money. He simply wants us to experience the joy that comes from pursuing a call to create that he places on our hearts.



GUIDING SCRIPTURE:

*"My times are in your hands...Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. Let me not be put to shame, Lord, for I have cried out to you."
—Psalm 31:15-17a*

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ACTION	FOCUS	ESTIMATED TIME
Welcome	<p>QUESTION: What burdens are you carrying? What do you need to put aside today to be present and here to support your growth and contribute meaningfully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 seconds around the circle • Verbalize what to put aside. • Option to write and put in a basket. 	10 mins
Video Session	<p>INTRODUCTION: If we find ourselves thinking, "I want to do God's will, but I just want to do it my way," we might be in trouble. What does it take for us to walk the fine line that makes it possible for us to faithfully follow God's lead rather than our own?</p>	15 mins
Group Discussion	<p>We all face hinge moments and uncertain challenges. This month we're taking a deeper look at what it means for entrepreneurs to be obedient to God and his call in our work as we encounter these moments on our journey. And how we walk that fine line between being faithful rather than willful in these times.</p> <p>Ask each person to share and incorporate any learnings from the video. Here are a few questions to get you started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the highs and lows of business become your barometer for success? • When was the last time you stopped to ask God for his guidance and direction? <p>Facilitator asks if any members would like to share an action they are committing to take this month based on the discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group members share any practice they would like to start or discontinue in their personal life of business via Zoom chat or post-it note • Other members agree to pray for and hold them accountable. 	45-60 mins
(Optional) Business Spotlight	<p>One individual presents information on their business venture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person shares about their business model, stage and scope • Participants ask questions and get to know more 	10 mins
Prayer	<p>The group wraps in a time of prayer and encouragement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popcorn prayer—Designate one person to begin the prayer and another person to end the prayer. Then allow space and moments of silence for people to pray as they feel led. • Zoom rooms or small groups for prayer 	10 mins

Discussion Questions

Grit and perseverance can be seen as altruistic characteristics of an entrepreneur. But these traits, in the extreme, can also be a sign of willfulness. How do we know the difference? Ask someone who has line of sight to see your true motives. Invite others into the process. Here are a few more questions to help your group go even deeper in discussion.

STRIVING

Striving is characterized by an internal pressure that "I have to make this happen" in my energy. In the timeframe I want. And by the means I think are best.

- **Are you trying to make everything happen on your own?**

CONTENDING

Contending means I bring all that I am in obedience to God, but surrender my desire for control. We release the outcomes to him. Contending is a position of dependency and entrusting the results, timing, funding, everything to God.

- **Are you surrendering yourself and your business to God on a daily basis or only when it suits your purposes?**

TRUSTED ALLIES

Your Faith Driven Entrepreneur Group can be the people you need to help you see your blind spots. Lean into this community. Oftentimes what you put into these relationships is what you'll get out of them.

- **Are you able to be honest and transparent with others by leaning on them to point out your shortcomings and affirm your strengths?**

5 Ideas to Explore the Mark Further

There's no limit to the ways you can explore the Marks of a Faith Driven Entrepreneur. What we provide below are five ideas we think might lead each one of us to an even greater understanding of our God-given call to create.

1. **Journal:** It can be hard to tell the difference between faithful and willful, especially when you think you're doing the right thing. But here's the litmus test. If we find ourselves thinking, "I want to do God's will, but I just want to do it my way," we might be in trouble. In one column, write down the many ways you find yourself being willful. In a second column, determine who you can choose to be faithful.
2. **Interact:** Grit and perseverance can be seen as altruistic characteristics of an entrepreneur. But these traits can also be a sign of willfulness. How do we know the difference? Ask someone who has line of sight to see your true motives. Invite others into the process.
3. **Consider:** King David faced significant adversity throughout his life. And we have the Psalms as a result of his many trials and tribulations. From his words we can learn much about the importance of trusting in the LORD always, especially when times are tough. Spend extended time reading David's poems of lament. Consider how his words can be your words.
4. **Act Differently:** What we need to recognize about willful versus faithful is that we are constantly adjusting and recalibrating our hearts to pursue the glory of God rather than our own. It takes patience. Grace. Time. And most of all, it takes a humble and contrite spirit. What can you do to pursue this posture of faithful obedience?
5. **Learn From Others:** Visit faithdrivenentrepreneur.org to learn more or join the conversation by listening to our weekly Faith Driven Entrepreneur Podcast.

We are a global movement dedicated to gathering one million Christ-following entrepreneurs and equipping them so they can fulfill their call to create. Currently, thousands of Faith Driven Entrepreneurs from more than 88 different countries are involved in groups like this. More are signing every day.

Is someone in your group ready to help this movement continue to grow? They can apply to lead a Faith Driven Entrepreneur Group online:

faithdrivenentrepreneur.org/lead-a-group