

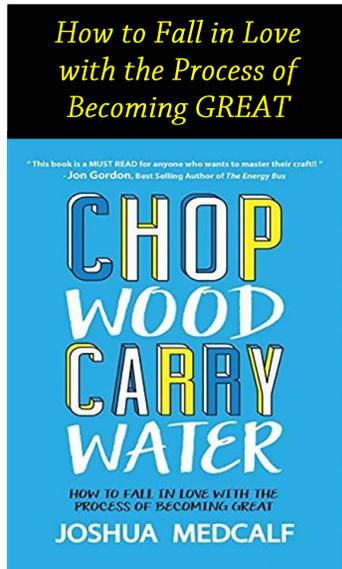
Bible Study

March 11, 2020

Chapter 1

Chop Wood Carry Water

Hebrews 10:36



God has a place for each of us called our destiny. At that place, **John 10:10** is true. Our destiny is where we experience God's best for us. Most of us want God's best but few are willing to do all it takes to be all God designed us to be. This book is all about the process to your destiny. It illustrates in story form the pitfalls that

many of us fall into as we navigate this Christian life. Most of us want to live life the way we want to and get discouraged when things do not work out the way we had hoped—**Proverbs 14:12**. This book helps us understand that discipline and consistency are needed before real and lasting results occur. Maybe most of us have not learned the discipline to chop water and carry water or to abound in the work of the Lord—**1 Corinthians 15:58**.

Chapter 1 introduces the concept of chop wood and carry water when an 18-year old young man purchases a one-way ticket to Japan to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming a samurai archer. His name is John. As John arrives, he is greeted by a friendly, old sensei named Akira. Akira shows John around the grounds, pointing out the advanced training areas and shooting ranges. John is excited and eager to get started.

The next morning, Akira gathered the newly-arrived apprentices and informed them of their first task. The rest of the morning, they must chop wood and carry water. Confused and disappointed, John asked "what do you mean?" Point to Ponder—Spiritually, each of us need someone to assist us if we are going to get to our destiny—**Ephesians 4:16**.

Maybe, many here today become disappointed and confused and don't understand why your life isn't much better. The principles learned from this chapter hopefully will speak to your disappointment and confusion and aid you in living a more fruitful life.

Principles Gleaned From Chapter 1

1. Confusion happens when we don't understand why the seemingly mundane are important. Disappointment happens when we try to get what God has promised without understanding how His Word works—**Isaiah 55:11**. Wood and water were essentials for the survival of the community that produced the samurai archers. For us as believers, our chopping wood and carrying water are Prayer Service, Bible Study, Fulfillment Hour, and Tithes and Offering. Without those mundane things, the church would cease to exist. The mundane is often the essential. The mundane gives us what we need to do the essential—we cannot skip the mundane. Chopping wood and carrying water may have appeared to be mundane but proved to be the lifeline of the community.
2. In order for our community to thrive, all of us must do the same basic things—chop wood and carry water (do the things that are essential for the community). No one was exempt no matter how old or how accomplished—**Ephesians 4:12-13**.
 - A. In order for the church to thrive, each member must do the basic things.
 - B. The basic things were foundational and necessary for any further development.
3. There must be discipline before results. Discipline in doing the essentials builds the muscle to accomplish greater things—**John 8:31-32, 1 Corinthians 15:58**.
4. You don't determine the path to your destiny, God does—**Proverbs 3:5-6**. There is always a connection between the process and the destination—**Jeremiah 29:11**.