

# **Challenged by Life...Powered by God**

**(Case Studies in Christian Challenges)**

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This monthly series of case studies illustrate the challenges presented to us as Christians. Facing these common challenges is inevitable. How we respond to those challenges is what defines us as human beings and whether others observe and mimic or take notice and mock. It should be our desire as Christians to serve as that coveted example worth mimicking 100% of the time. See if this case study has presented similar decision points and challenges in your life. I would love to hear your reactions, thoughts and alternative approaches in the comments section below.

## **The Case of Living with Your Reputation**

There is no doubt that people interact with each other, have certain expectations or doubts and behave in a certain manner that varies from person to person because of our individual reputations. In a positive manner it is rarely a problem. Busy people are engaged for volunteer work because their reputation includes a desire to help and an ability to get things done. There are certain people you would never think twice about loaning your car to because they will be careful and bring it back washed and with a full tank of gas. When the game is on the line in basketball, you put the ball in the hands of the person who wants it and who has shown the ability to be fearless and in most cases make the basket and win the game.

## **Why Reputations can be Frustrating**

If someone who has a reputation for not telling the truth is actually telling the truth on a specific occasion and no one believes them, it is incredibly frustrating to them. If someone is always late, sometimes their friends will tell them the starting time of a function is earlier than it really is in an attempt to get them there on time. When they show up ahead of schedule on occasion, they can be mad at their friends for telling them the wrong time. In all of these and similar situations where frustration is evident, we must realize that we are simply experiencing the outcomes and interactions driven by our reputation. Once again we reap what we sow.

## **Making your Reputation Work for You**

Want to make your reputation work for you? The answer is pretty simple. Take pride in managing your life in a manner that generates positive, productive interactions. Mark Twain said, "If you always tell the truth, you never have to remember anything." Want to always be believed and not frustrated when people are skeptical? Then build a reputation of being honest and that will be your reward.

The more you build your reputation with characteristics like, showing up on time, being pleasant and helpful, working hard and not judging will result in positive experiences. I believe this to be the truth.

**John 8:32 Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.**

What are your thoughts? If you have thoughts or comments on this challenge or any previous challenge, please send an e-mail to [KevinShrake@yahoo.com](mailto:KevinShrake@yahoo.com).