

HOW WE LIVE IS WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD

Hebrews 11:6

Introduction: There are many, many Christians who wonder why they don't sense God's presence and activity in their lives the way other Christians do. Have you ever felt God's "invitation" to do something but didn't feel like you could do it, so you just forgot about it? Every day we are faced with deciding whether to be involved with God or not. We are invited to join Him in doing something. How we go about our daily lives, decisions we make, goals and plans determine what we believe about God.

I. SOME EXAMPLES OF OBEYING GOD

1. Remember Joshua and the walls of Jericho? What God told him he needed to do didn't sound logical at all. How in the world would marching around the city walls cause them to come down? It was just impossible. Nevertheless Joshua had the people march around the city walls as God instructed and history tells the rest of the story.
2. How about Gideon and his army of 300 men? Gideon started out with 32,000 soldiers but God told him he had too many. How can one have too many men in an army that was already outnumbered by thousands? God told Gideon he only needed 300. Does that sound mad? Yet Gideon did what God said and again history tells the rest of the story.
3. Everybody remembers David and the Philistine giant. It defies logic to even think that a teenage boy with a slingshot would even dare to go near a giant of a man wearing armor, carrying a spear that was taller than David and a sword that only he, the giant could lift. Yet David trusted God, picked up a few stones, walked up to the giant, hit him between the eyes and history tells the rest of the story.
4. One other example and that is of Peter getting the necessary tax money they needed. What Jesus told him to do was absurd. Go catch a fish and the tax money will be in it's mouth. What a crazy thought. Yet Peter did what Jesus said, and again, history tells the rest of the story.

II. A WORD OF CAUTION: FAITH IS NEEDED TO DO WHAT GOD WANTS DONE

1. Faith is only valid in God and WHAT God is telling you to do. However, nothing is impossible if one's faith is in God and it is God's plan that is being done.
2. A mistake is for us to decide to do something on our own and then along the way ask God to step in and help out some. God doesn't work that way.
 - What one does in faith in God MUST BE GOD'S IDEA AND GOD'S CALL.
 - Only then will empowerment and supernatural things happen.
3. Remember, Moses didn't deliver Israel out of Egypt by his own resources. Remember his staff?
 - God called Moses to do something for Him and then supplied all that was needed.
 - Everything attributed to Moses was in God's Strength and Wisdom.

4. Joshua couldn't dry up the flooding river, tear down the walls of Jericho or make the sun stand still even if he had thought of it. Only God could do those things.
 - Joshua did everything God told him to do. He did nothing on his own.
5. The disciples couldn't feed the multitude, heal the sick, still a storm, much less raise the dead by themselves. Yet God told them that they could - IF they did it through HIM.

III. SO, WHO GETS ALL THE GLORY AND RECOGNITION?

1. The first rule is: If you can do it by yourself, then it's not God's doing.
 - Whenever God has something for you to do, it will be too big for you to do and far beyond your capabilities. Only God will be able to do it and all glory will go to Him.
 - Your faith in His invitation will enable Him to work His work through you and ONLY God will receive the honor and glory - NOT YOU!
2. The second rule is: Don't start out on your own doing something and call it God's will.
 - We start something that we have an interest in, thinking God will back us up and bless what we are doing. When it doesn't turn out right we wonder where God has been and why He didn't get involved.
 - Remember, if God doesn't get the glory, He isn't going to be involved!

IV. NOW, DO WE REALLY WANT TO DO GOD'S WORK GOD'S WAY?

1. Sarah lacked faith. In her 70's and was told by an angel she was going to have a child. She laughed and sent her handmaiden to have the child she was told she was going to have.
2. A husband and wife thought they wanted to be missionaries to Africa. Upon being invited to do so and considering all that was involved, they found they didn't want to leave their parents and go so far away. Their actions revealed what they believed about God.
3. A lady prayed for a long time that God would give her a place to serve in her church. When asked by the nominating committee to teach an adult class, she declined saying she didn't have the abilities and besides, she'd never done anything like that before. She revealed what she thought about God.
4. When God invites you to do something, no matter how large or small, you face a major decision of faith. What you do then reveals what you think about God and His ability.

CONCLUSION:

1. Think about all those who believed Jesus could do wonders and then those who failed to believe.
2. Regardless of what we say about our faith in God, what we do reveals what is in our heart.
3. It is not by our strength we serve the Lord but by HIS. Our Hand of Faith reaching up to Him.