

With the sermon series based on the book, Seven Realities for Experiencing God, so far we have seen God is at work all around us, God loves us and wants us to love God, and God wants us to be involved in His work. Also, last Sunday we discovered, God speaks to His people by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, the circumstances of our lives and His church. Has God spoken to you in the last week?

I believe that God spoke to you through the bible verse to memorize. Let us memorize it together. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."(James 1:5)

As God speaks to you through this bible verse, do you ask God, wisdom to raise your children, to resolve conflicts among your coworkers, to deal with your stress and anxiety? You must listen to God.

Today I want to share the fifth of Seven realities, "Crisis of Belief." As the Living God meets us and speaks to us, He always demands a decision. The moment to make a decision is called the moment of Crisis of Belief. We must decide what we believe about God and then act upon that belief. What we believe is revealed in what we do.

One of my favorite stories in the Old Testament is the story of Jonah. God spoke to the prophet Jonah, "Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me."

When God spoke to Jonah, he felt that Nineveh had to fall because of God's judgment against it. Thus Jonah did not want to prophesy because Nineveh might repent and thereby be saved. So he rushed down to Joppa and boarded a ship that

would carry him in the opposite direction. He listened to God, but He made the wrong decision in his way. When he had to act upon God's will, He resisted it.

When God speaks to us, there is a crisis of belief to decide to follow God's way. When God speaks to us, God expects us to decide what we believe about Him and act with our faith.

Are you ready to take a crisis of belief to follow God's will? some of us might say, "it is so hard to discern God's will."

As we already shared, God speaks to us. He has given us the Scriptures, which reveal His will, and He is placed His Holy Spirit within us to guide us to His perfect will.

In Old Testament reading Moses gathered the Israelites before they were to enter the promised land. God described, "when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul."(Deuteronomy 3:10)

God gave them detailed instructions so that they wouldn't misunderstand what He expected of them. Then God asked them to make a choice. If they chose to disobey His commands, they would face His wrath. If they chose to obey, they would receive His blessing.

God's Word comes to you in the same way. It isn't too complicated to understand. The question is, how will you respond? Nowhere in Scripture did God excuse

disobedience because His instructions were too vague or complex. Condemnation always came because people knew exactly what God wanted them to do, yet they chose not to do it.

God, through His Holy Spirit, always gives you sufficient revelation and strength to take the next step with Him. If you are uncertain about what God is asking of you, make sure you are obeying all you know at present. Through your obedience, God's next instruction will become clear.

Our lives are the sum of the responses we have made to God. Once God makes Himself known to us, what we do next is our decision.

In Mark 10 the rich young man lived a moral life. He was well versed in Scripture and the laws of God. Jesus loved him and so asked him, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he had to choose to bring himself to obey, Scripture tells us that "he went sad." He made the wrong choice in the crisis of belief.

Every single day, every single moment we make choices; what to eat, what to wear, what to say, what to do, and how to act. We had made a thousand choices before we arrived here this morning! A choice to argue with a wife. A choice to yell at the kids. A choice to spend some time with the Lord in prayer. The choices you make today are the ones you're going to have to live with tomorrow.

We are faced with the same question as the rich young man. Will you respond positively to Christ's invitation? Will you choose to follow Jesus, trusting Him with everything in your life? God is asking you to make a choice.

God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action. Anytime you hear from God. You have a choice to make. This truth can dramatically affect your prayer life. Every time you pray, you must be aware that if God answers your prayer and reveals His will to you, it will immediately require you to reorient your life. Each time you read your Bible, you must be prepared to obey what God tells you.

Many Christians hesitate to obey what God speaks to them because of FEAR. We don't know what lies ahead of us. Fear enslaves us. However, when you trust the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit within you, there is no reason to live in fear. Trust is faith. While fear comes from what we don't know, faith is based on what we know. It's confidence in someone or something you know in the midst of what you don't know.

If you still hesitate to follow the way Jesus taught us, you can learn the story in Mark 9. A father came to Jesus asking to cure his son. An evil spirit had possessed his son since early childhood. In desperation, a father cried out to Jesus for help. Jesus said to him, "If you are able! All things can be done for the one who believes." The father cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief. " even though he was struggling with his faith, he had gone to Jesus with his problem.

When you are struggling to believe, that is not the time to avoid Christ or to be ashamed of your struggle. You will never increase your faith by not going to Jesus.

Rather, Jesus wants to help you with your belief. Not only can he meet your need, but He will also give you faith to trust Him to provide for you.

If you are struggling to believe that God can take care of your need, it is because you don't know Him. Go to Him and allow Him to convince you of His ability to meet every need you will ever face. It's by faith that God's mighty power is released into a Christians' life.

God's nature is to be faithful. Regardless of how bleak your present circumstances are. Don't lose hope. No one has ever experienced unfaithfulness on God's part. Allow time for God to reveal His faithfulness to you. Someday, you will reflect on what God has done, and you will praise Him for His absolute faithfulness to you. Are you in a crisis of belief? Does Jesus speak to you, "Follow Me"? Don't be afraid to follow what God speaks to us. Hold to the promises of our Lord. He won't forget His promises to us.