

Challenged to Believe

© Tim Dubberly, October 15, 2000

Text: John 14:7-14

Introduction:

Every believer is challenged to believe in Christ as the true God. We are challenged to believe that He was born of a virgin, died on the cross for our sins, resurrected from the dead to rise into glory, where He sits at the right hand of the Father. For me this is very easy because of the spiritual relationship I have with Him. I feel Him when He touches me in the spirit, and I hear Him when He speaks to my heart.

Jesus was speaking to His disciples about this very same subject when Philip asked him to show him the Father. Jesus reiterated the fact that the Father was in Him and He was in the Father. Jesus said, *“The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works (10).* He went on to challenge them to believe that He was in the Father because He told them or to believe by the works which He had done.

Today, the world wants to see Jesus, and we can only tell them through the word and show them through the works. And just like Jesus said of the Father, we can say of Him, we speak on his authority and He that dwells in us does the works. It all comes down to believing in Jesus, not in works or in predestination but in Christ.

g "Listen here!" said a Christian sailor, when explaining to a shipmate at the wheel, "Listen here--it isn't abstaining from swearing and the like; it isn't reading the Bible, nor praying, nor being good; it is none of these; for even if they would answer for the time to come, there's still the old score; and how are you to get over that? It isn't anything that you have done or can do; it's taking hold of what Jesus did for you; it's forsaking your sins, and expecting the pardon and salvation of your soul, because Christ let the waves and billows go over Him on Calvary. This is believing, and believing is nothing else."
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Here are a few of the “forces” behind believing that Jesus is Lord.

I. He who believes will do the same works. (12a)

- A. The force of God's will comes into focus through a believer. There are things that God wants to do, and He needs a willing Christian to move through.

One writer said:

There was no area of life or of death, whether it be spiritual, mental, or physical, or whether it pertain to the past, the present, or to the future, that He did not effectively and sufficiently produce perfect and eternal results. When He saw...

...the sick, He healed them...

...the poor, He enriched them...

...the children, He blessed them...

...the weak, He strengthened them...

...the lonely, He comforted them...

and when He saw...the enslaved, He freed them...!

This writer went on to say that everywhere that He went, he did something that was well worth doing, and everytime that He spoke, He said something that was well worth saying. When He encountered...

...the helpless, He helped them..

...the perishing, He rescued them...

...the feeble, He protected them...

...the sincere, He taught them...

...the discouraged, He inspired them...

...the exhausted, He revived them...

and when He encountered ...the fallen, He lifted them...!

And in every situation, His Heavenly Father was glorified.

Baugh (116)

- B. The believer will have a ministry of some kind. However, every Christian will be a witness of His love and forgiveness. And miracles and signs will be done through the yielded child of God. For the Bible teaches us that these signs shall follow them that believe. They will cast out devil, speak with new tongues, overthrow dominions, overcome persecution, and heal the sick.
- C. From believing Christians the word will be preached, taught, and lived. God will show himself in their behalf. The simple truth is that anyone who accepts Jesus as Lord and believes will begin to do the things Jesus did.

II. He who believes will have a greater ministry. (12b)

- A. A believer's ministry will not be greater in demonstration or power, but in potential. The force of the Holy Ghost coming into the church to empower it will cause a greater ministry by volume. Jesus was only one man, limited to three years who sent us the Holy Ghost, and the Church has had 2000 years to minister.
- B. John also recorded Jesus saying in chapter seven that whoever believed in Him, out of their bellies or heart would flow rivers of living water. We become channels of spiritual refreshment for others. We are a channel for the Holy Ghost to move through.
- C. Our ministry is greater not only because of the Holy Ghost but because Jesus destroyed the authority of satan. He went to his domain in hell and set the captives free, took away the keys to death, hell, and the grave and led them to heaven. He then gave us the authority over all the power of the devil.

III. He who believes will have a powerful prayer life. (13)

- A. Prayer becomes a force through a believer and their prayer changes things. Any prayer prayed in accordance with His nature or will has His full weight of support behind it.
- B. Powerful prayer depends of "sticking" faith, the kind that doesn't accept something just because that is the way it is now.
- C. The authority is in Jesus name, for all power has been given to Him in heaven and in earth. He said, "If you ask anything." What did the disciples pray for? They prayed for boldness, power, understanding, faith, endurance, sinners, and that they might suffer with Christ.

Conclusion:

We have been challenged to believe Christ so that the world can see Him through our lives. If we truly believe Christ, we will do the works that He did and in a greater potential because of the more time and the church being empowered. Even our prayer life will be powerful.

Though the world tries to destroy our faith, trust, and belief in God, we must continue to believe God and stand upon His word. Just because we may not understand why God does something we must believe it because He said it.

g Some people pride themselves on being agnostics. That is, they say that religious teachings are very well for those who care to be so stupid that they want to believe in God and heaven, something they cannot see. The agnostics, however, pride themselves on believing only those things, which they can prove and understand. This reminds me of a story.

"I will not believe anything that I do not understand," said a man in a hotel one day.

"Neither will I," said another. "Nor will I," said a third. "Gentlemen," said one who sat close by, "on my ride this morning I saw some geese in a field eating grass. Do you believe that?"

"Certainly," said one of the three listeners. "I saw the pigs eating grass. Do you believe that?" "Of course," said the three. "I also saw sheep and cows eating grass. Do you believe that?" "Of course," was again the reply.

"Well, the grass turned to feathers on the backs of the geese, to bristles on the backs of the swine, to white wool on the sheep, and to hair on the cow; do you believe that, gentlemen?" "Certainly," they replied.

"But do you understand it?"

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Today we are "Challenged to Believe" that Jesus is real and that He is Lord. If He is Lord then is He big enough to take care of you and your problems? If so, would you come to the altars and cast your cares upon Him. Then, take up your belief in Him and go out and do the works of God.

References

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Baugh, Gary L. (1987) There's Nobody Like...Jesus...!. Columbus, Georgia: Quill Publications