

Do It All in Love

As we walk the walk of faith in Jesus, we may see so much opposition that is different from what the bible teaches. We feel strongly about our faith, and we see that in the world others may be out of line so to speak from what the word of God teaches.

You may see religious groups as well teaching the opposite of God's word. **Ephesians 4:14-15 says, that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love...**

When sharing your faith, it is important to speak common sense. Stand on the truth of God's word for Jesus all you can, especially when there is no platform or stage for you to stand on. Your stage may be your kitchen, your everyday duties or your mundane routine of life. It is then in love and graciousness we hold our ground and where those around us will hear us the most. When you can't speak, live in the spirit of Jesus wherever you are. It is an amazing stage that is so overlooked today. It will speak a much louder volume to them than words ever could.

A Closer Walk with God

Life can be like a maze at times. You can't figure out which way to go or turn. The unfortunate thing is that for many people, having a prayer life is like a maze to them, a puzzle yet to be figured out. Prayer is the most simple and powerful science ever devised by God. In prayer, one talks to God. So how powerful is prayer? Daniel prayed and as a result was shown the king's dream and interpretation. Jehoshaphat prayed, and certain destruction was turned into a crushing military victory. The early church prayed, and Peter was miraculously released from prison. His chains fell off, and an iron gate swung open on its hinges as he walked to freedom.

1 John 5:14-15 says, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

There is something even better than having your prayers answered, and that is to be able to speak with God and experience His presence in your life. Answered prayer is truly a blessing, but if your faith rests on that alone, you will struggle with prayer when it may seem to you that it is not answered. Recognizing prayer as time with God, as an audience with the Creator, as a heart-to-heart communication with the One in heaven is what is truly powerful about prayer. Thankfully, prayer isn't as complicated as some make it to be. And should not be neglected in a believer's life. It's simple and most of all it is powerful. You can make your prayer life more powerful, by praying to the Creator right now.

God's Detour

During the reformation times, Christians who tried to follow the bible were locked in a major battle to defend their lives. The leading church wanted nothing to do with their message of reform and teachings to *"turn to the truth and rely on scripture and faith in God's word, alone."*

So, people risked their lives to advance the truth of the bible while ignoring the death threats. Today, people still need the truth and the faith of God's word. You may be in a battle as well, while trying to bring someone to know Jesus in a better way. You may be facing detours and opposition as you try to teach them that Jesus is the way.

When Joseph came face to face with his brothers in Egypt, they didn't know it was him. They had left him for dead and he was sold into slavery. Joseph said this to them in **Genesis 45:8 - "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God."** His life took a major detour. As you face the challenges of leading others to a better life in Christ, learn to see the hand of God in your detour and circumstances. Things may seem as if it has taken a turn for the worse. But remember, what you see for evil, God may see it for good.

Keep on Praying

There is a story in the bible where real wonderful faith is exercised. A woman with a demon-possessed daughter comes to Jesus.

Mark 7:25-30 - For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs." Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter." And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.

She was not known for great faith. But she kept asking Jesus to get the demon out of her daughter. She asked and she asked again. She was persistent and that was because she believed Jesus could do this. Something no one else could possibly do, she knew He could. Persistence demonstrates that you believe that Jesus can do anything but fail. And it also means that you believe and that you are relying on God. Sometimes your prayers may not be answered right away but keep on asking and asking until it is. Why? Because you know that Jesus can help you. Today, don't stop praying, and don't stop asking, until your answered prayer has arrived, because you know that Jesus can and will certainly help you.

Strength from on High

It is important to remind yourself what God is really like. Some people think of God as being all about justice. And while God is a just God, He is also all about love, helping people and assisting us and blessing us. He is doing all He can to lift us up. **Isaiah 40:29** says, **He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.**

Have you ever been faint or weak? You know what it is like to be weak physically, but you can also be weak spiritually, as well. You may feel temptation is stronger than your ability to resist at times. And sometimes you are just not up to the task of being a real Christian. If you feel this way at times, know that God will provide the spiritual strength that you need, when you need it, and He loves to do so.

Remember where your strength is today, and that God will give you the spiritual strength you need for whatever comes your way. It gets hard out there in the real world but just ask God to stand by you and help you and hold you up and give you strength and it is yours for the asking.

Continue in Prayer!

Acts 1:12-13 - Then they [the Apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying...These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.

Miracles happened with the early church. Why? Because the early church was a **praying** group of people. They never stopped. If we pray like the Apostles prayed, we will see all sorts of things happen like the Apostle saw with Jesus. It made them successful in sharing the gospel to others. They prayed and they continued with one accord, one purpose and one mind. Their focus and their faith in God unified them. When you stand in unity with God, it will take you places you have never seen before. Putting God first yield wonderful results.

Prayer is so important and vital to the growth of a child of God. It may seem as if nothing is happening but that is not your concern that is God's concern. He promised that when you pray and you know that He hears you, you will have the petition of what you have asked.

Do you believe that God hears you when you pray? Do you believe that He is more than able to fix your problem? Then trust Him when He says that He has it all worked out for you. Life offers hardship, disappointment and pain, but you can trust in the Mighty One to be ahead of what pain you are feeling and that He will show you a way out. Don't stop praying! Don't stop believing in the One and only true God! And you will see your miracle real soon.

Jesus said No!

If someone cast a legion of demons out of you, you would expect to be very grateful to the one who did. A man who had been living among tombs encountered Jesus near the sea of Galilee one day. And Jesus cast the demon out of him. Restored his sanity and gave the man his life back. **Mark 5:18-20 - And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.** You can't blame the man; Jesus had changed his life and now he wanted to be where Jesus was. But Jesus would not permit it and said you can't be with me. And no, you can't follow me around. And that was because Jesus had a work for the man to do. You have been blessed; I have changed your life. The very best thing you can do now is to go and tell others what God has done for you. And the man did. It is very easy to forget that when God has done something great for you God wants you to tell others what He has done. People can argue with your theology, but they can't argue with a changed life. And this man was changed.

Noticed Jesus didn't tell him to go and tell others about the scriptures and what they were doing wrong. He simply said, Go and tell them what God has done for you. God is still looking for people

who will go and do just that. Someone who will tell others what God has done for them. Think of what God has done for you and pray and look for opportunities through Christ to tell others. God use the man in a powerful way. And He is looking to use you in the same way. Jesus says to you, I have been good to you, I have been powerful in your life. I have worked miracles in your life. And He is saying to you what He said to this man, Go and tell someone all about it. Has God been powerful in your life? Then you should share that good news right away.