

Daily Devotional, May 13, 2021 Be Bold in Your Witness

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

How many of you have you have ever been given a dream by God, that resulted in a big idea or thought of action? Now, how many, after receiving this thought, were filled with feelings of inadequacy, and decided against taking any action? Did any of you raise your hand? I definitely did. All things are possible with God. However, when God asks us to do things in God’s name that *seem* impossible, we tend to turn into a coward and withdraw from those actions. Why is that?

I think that one of the biggest commands God has given us, is also one that terrifies most people. We find it at the end of Matthew 28, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” That verse used to intimidate me. Why is the command to go out and share the Gospel with others so scary? Why does the idea of making disciples seem overwhelming?

In the past, I would read that passage and instantly feel pressure. I would automatically think “okay, what are the right words to use when sharing the Gospel?” or, “I can’t tell people about Jesus yet, I don’t have the answers to every question they may have, and besides—I haven’t had any training. I don’t want to make a fool of myself”. I had no faith in myself, but even worse, I had no faith in the power of the Spirit to work through me.

I believe that the Lord continues to break me of this lack of faith - faith in the ability for Him to work despite my inadequacy, and despite my weaknesses. In fact, in *2 Corinthians* we are assured that God’s “power is made perfect in weakness”. In all honesty, no matter what words we speak to a person, no matter how perfect and awesome a sermon is preached, it is solely through the power of the Holy Spirit that a person’s heart is softened to the Gospel and able to receive it. When we understand the truth that only God can reveal Himself to a person, only God can supply the words needed to be spoken, and only God can use those words to influence a heart change, then the pressure is off.

It is not our job to be perfect, and to automatically know the perfect words to speak the Gospel. It is, however, our job to love the Lord, and to seek Him constantly, and it is also our job to as confidently and boldly proclaim the Gospel to others as we can, in faith that God will move through what we are speaking. It’s okay if you aren’t good with words, or you have trouble articulating things! If you trust in the power of the Lord to work through you, and if you have the faith and belief that He will, all that is left is that step, that action of faith to open your mouth and to speak. Know with full confidence that “in the Lord your labor is not in vain”.

A quote I once heard that really encouraged me was this: “it is our job to be faithful, it is God’s job to be fruitful”. When we decide to share the Gospel out of love for God and others, as an act of faithfulness, and not out of a mentality to “bear fruit”, we will never be disappointed. God asks us to be faithful, and to be bold, while leaving the work of transforming hearts and minds to Him. God is the only one who can do such a thing! God only asks for our faithfulness, and for our courage to speak, trusting that He will supply the words, and that He will be the one to bring forth understanding of Himself in another’s life.

Prayer: Lord, I pray for myself and for all of us. Would you open up doors for us to share your Word? Give us the boldness today to speak of the mystery and the saving grace of Christ. I pray that when you do, you will make it clear exactly what we should say and how we should say it. Through the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit working in all of us, we praise Your holy name, Amen.