

EXPERIENCING GOD

THE CRISIS OF BELIEF

A Turning Point

When God tells us what He wants to do through us, we will face a crisis of belief. This unit focuses on a major turning point in following God's will. When God invites us to join Him in His work, He has a God-sized assignment for you. You will quickly realize you cannot do what He is asking on your own. If God doesn't help you, you will fail. This is the crisis of belief...when you must decide whether to believe God or not.

It is at this point many people decide not to follow what God is leading them to do. They then wonder why they don't experience God's presence and activity the way other Christians seem to.

A crisis of belief is not a bad thing in your life but a turning point where you must make a decision. You must decide what you truly believe about God. You must also understand that this is not a one-time experience. It is a regular occurrence. The way you live your life is a testimony of what you believe about God.

As we study about the crisis of belief, we will look at four truths...

The Crisis of Belief

1. An encounter with God requires faith.
2. Encounters with God are God-sized.
3. What you do in response to God's invitation reveals what you believe about God.
4. True faith requires action.

When God speaks, your response requires faith. Throughout Scripture when God revealed Himself, His purposes and His ways, the response to Him required faith.

Faith is confidence that what God promised or said will come to pass.

Your faith does not rest on a concept or an idea. Faith must be in a Person...God Himself. Faith is not drawing up some great idea or big plan and then asking God to make it come to pass. Faith is valid only in God and in what He says He is purposing to do.

When God let you know what He wants to do through you, it will be something only He can do. What you believe about Him will determine what you do next. If you have faith in the God Who called you, you will obey Him. He will bring to pass what He purposed to do. If you lack faith, you will not do what He asks. That is disobedience. Jesus asked those around Him, "Why do you call me Lord and not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46). Many times He rebuked the disciples for their unbelief. Their lack of faith revealed they did not know who He really was.

When God calls a person to join Him in a God-sized task, faith is always required. Obedience indicates faith in God. According to Hebrews, without faith a person cannot please God.

We face the same crisis people in the Bible faced. When God speaks, what He asks of us requires faith.

Our problem is we think, "I can't do that...that is impossible." We forget that when God speaks, He always reveals what He is going to do...not what He wants us to do for Him. We join Him in His work so He can work through us. In Mark 10 Jesus told us that what is impossible with us is always possible with God.

God is most interested in people coming to know Him. The only way people will know what God is like is to see Him at work. Whenever God involves you in His activity, the assignment will have God-like dimensions to it.

He gives God-sized assignments so the world can see Him through us. He wants to demonstrate His nature, His strength, His provision and His love to a watching world.

When people see something happen that only God can do, they come to know God.

What our world often witnesses today is someone who claims to be a Christian going through the motions of serving God. They are NOT seeing God. They don't see anything happening that can only be explained in terms of God's activity. People are not being drawn to Christ because they are not seeing Him at work in the lives of Christians.

Let Christ be lifted up...not in words...but in life. Let people see the difference the living Christ makes in our lives and that will affect how they respond to the gospel.

Let the world watch God at work and He will attract people to Himself.

The reason much of the world is not being attracted to Christ is that His people lack the faith to attempt things only God can do. Never forget that Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." God is far more concerned with your walking with Him than He is interested in getting a job done for Him.

What you do reveals what you believe about God, regardless of what you say. When God speaks, it will always cause a crisis of belief. What you do in response reveals what you believe about God.

When you face a crisis of belief, what you do demonstrates what you believe. Faith without action is dead (James 2:26). Genuine faith is demonstrated by action. God has planned something far better for people of faith than this world has to offer. A faithful servant is one who does what his Master tells them to do.

In the next unit we will look more carefully at the cost of following God's will. Part of the action required to demonstrate your faith will be the adjustment you must make in your life. Following God will always require adjustments...sometimes costly to you and those around you.