



Biblical Perspectives in Everyday Life

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE? . . . No, REALLY

Recently, some of my friends who say they trust in God turned rather quickly to other supposed “sources of help” in an effort to find “help in time of need.” Basically, the belief systems of my friends and millions of other believers aren’t really rooted in God. Tough times reveal where we really place our trust. My friends demonstrate a truth that tends to be forgotten: **Theoretical beliefs can be stated in “what you say,” but true beliefs are revealed in “what you do.”**

Hopefully, in great challenges, what we say corresponds to what we do. For believers in Christ, true beliefs (what we say *and* do) are rooted in the truth of God’s Word.

For example, a foundational truth is stated in Hebrews 13:5: “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” It is interesting that this promise is given in the context of being content with what we have and being free from the love of money, which is especially appropriate in light of the current global economic challenges. The context of its counterpart phrase in Deuteronomy 31:6 involves the conquest of the Promised Land by the Israelites. Obviously, that was a significant challenge as well. Believers today, no matter what challenge we may face, can be confident that our Almighty God is on record as ALWAYS being with us.

Since His divine presence is guaranteed and since His wisdom is so far above any other supposed source, it doesn’t make any sense to search anywhere apart from God and His Word for answers to EVERY situation of life. If we look elsewhere than the Bible to find foundational answers to life’s challenges, we have revealed where we *really* place our trust . . . and it is not in God.

Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” It is easy to believe we “trust in the Lord with all our heart” but not realize we show our lack of trust when we decide to go outside of the Lord’s Word for supposed “guidance” to life’s problems. When we trust our own wisdom or perceived wisdom from any other person or “school of thought,” we guarantee spiritual leanness and a lack of lasting peace and joy in our lives.

How comforting it is to know that we do not need to go anywhere but to the Lord for every aspect of life and relationships. That reality is stated in 2 Peter 1:3-4, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” An old song echoes that truth by reminding us, “Where could I go, Oh where could I go, seeking a refuge for my soul; Needing a friend to help me in the end, where could I go but to the Lord?”

Why go to secondary sources with incomplete help when we know the One who has all the help we need in every situation? When we turn away from other “helps” and focus, instead, on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2), we are ready to learn what He wants to do in our lives. The promise of Proverbs 3:6 clearly states, “In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths” (or, as some translations say, “he will direct your paths”).

Is it really that simple? Is it true that if we follow God’s way, we won’t lose our way? Is it true that if we follow our own way, we could wander “in the wilderness” for a long, long time? Yes, it *is* true and it *is* that simple.

With His promised care in each of our lives, let’s pray for ourselves and fellow believers this week in a specific way—“Father, remind me and my brothers and sisters in Christ to enjoy You this week. Help us to realize, in a greater dimension, that You have and You are The Answer to every question and challenge in life. Please increase our desire to search Your Word for direction to help us face and deal with life’s challenges. Help us to understand that a difficulty is an opportunity to grow in You, not a reason to despair. May the joy of knowing You allow me and my fellow believers to understand that Your plan for all of our lives is designed to bring You glory . . . while giving us the indescribable benefit of experiencing Your peace and joy. Help us to prove our beliefs and demonstrate where we really place our trust by our actions, not merely our words. Amen and Amen.”