

Building a Culture Of Faith

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1 Introduction key verse

What is Jesus looking for?

Luke 18:2-8

“In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. “There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ 4“For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.’” 6And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8“I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

Scouts for football teams know what they are looking for. Recruitment agents know what they are looking for. Prospective wives know what they are looking for in a husband. Good businessmen know what to look for in a business partner?Jesus knows what He is looking for in the church on earth.

When you know what the examiner is looking for, you know where to focus your energy in studying. Jesus is looking for faith. Eg some years ago I taught leadership to an army commander. He specifically wanted lessons with the writer of the course module and the examiner. It's the same in life. Jesus has written the course module of life and He is also the examiner. If you want to know what to focus on, He has already said what it is. If you want to please him, he has already stated it. FAITH.

You should always be in faith for something. What are you stretching your faith for right now?

Do you have faith for other things beyond material needs. I often need faith for wisdom. I often have to stand on his Word that says the Holy Spirit will teach me all things.

It's a problem when our wins are different. Boss vs subordinates; Husbands vs wives; Christ vs His bride.

He is looking for faith. So how then do we create a culture of faith.

1. Show the next generation how to confess the Word – By Stewart Bishop

Why should we confess God's Word?

In creating a culture of Faith, we must introduce a culture of confessing God's Words over our lives. The Bible says: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

You see when life happens and trouble comes, we can choose to declare our own words and our own opinions on the matter. When life happens some choose to look to the words of great philosophers like Aristotle, others look to

the words of great writers like William Shakespeare or poets like Dr Maya Angelou. Some choose to declare the words of great political leaders like Nelson Mandela. No matter how brilliant the author, no matter how talented a wordsmith, or how gifted an orator they may be, they all fall short in one key aspect. Their words, though often persuasive are never ETERNAL.

i) The nature of God's Word is that it is ETERNAL

We create a culture of Faith by declaring God's Eternal Word.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (God's Word has existed since the very beginning of time, it is FOREVER and ETERNAL and outranks/supersedes anything natural and temporary.)

Psalms 119:89 (KJV) FOREVER, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

1 Peter 1:25 but the word of the Lord endures FOREVER. And this is the word that was preached to you.

Psalms 119:152 Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last FOREVER.

Psalms 119:160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are ETERNAL.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures FOREVER."

What we speak from God's Word into the spirit realm has the authority to overcome/overtake what we see in the so-called "real world" which is in fact only temporary. When we confess His Word we confess what Eternity says over our temporary experiences. The ETERNAL Truth of God's Word overtakes the "facts" surrounding any temporary situation we may be facing here on earth.

The facts of the situation that you are going through are mismatched against the ETERNAL Truth of God's Eternal Word. The facts of your circumstance are temporary, God's Holy Word is ETERNAL.

It's like having Floyd "Money" Mayweather Jr, the undefeated, undisputed, Welterweight Champion of the World in one corner, 49 victories, 0 Defeats, with a 53% KO ratio - and in the opposite corner, Johnny come lately Jones from the amateur boxing division in his debut professional fight. It's a fact that they both are boxers, but the truth is it's a complete mismatch.

Creating a culture of CONFESSING God's ETERNAL Word Produces, Activates and Sustains our Faith/Belief in our Hearts. (Faith comes by hearing, and hearing the Word of God, so when we confess and declare boldly God's Word, we speak God's Word back to Him, we declare God's Word to ourselves and over our temporary

situation/circumstance. And most importantly we declare the Word of God to the Enemy so that he knows exactly how defeated he truly is.

ii) The nature of God's Word is that it is CREATIVE

We create a culture of Faith by declaring God's Creative Word.

Proverbs 18:21 (KJV) *Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

Romans 4:17 (KJV) *(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickened the dead, and called those things which be not as though they were.*

GENESIS 1:11 (KJV) *And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.*

GENESIS 1:3 (KJV) *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

THE BIBLE GIVES US THE AUTHORITY TO SPEAK THAT WHICH IS NOT AS THOUGH IT ALREADY IS BECAUSE WHEN WE SPEAK WE RELEASE AN INSTRUCTION OF FAITH INTO THE SPIRIT REALM FOR GOD TO RELEASE THAT WHICH YOU'VE SPOKEN IN ORDER TO BRING IT INTO EXISTENCE. APPLE SEEDS DON'T KNOW HOW TO BRING FORTH ANYTHING OTHER THAN APPLES AND GOOD SEED, GOOD FRUIT.

OUR TONGUES SOW THE SEEDS THAT BEAR THE FRUIT AFTER THEIR OWN KIND. WHAT WE SAY IS WHAT WE WILL HAVE. WE WILL EAT THE FRUIT OF THE WORDS WE HAVE SPOKEN OVER OUR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF OUR LOVED ONES. EVERY SPOKEN WORD HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BEAR A FRUIT AFTER ITS OWN KIND, IN OTHER WORDS THE FRUIT OF A GOOD WORD WILL BEAR GOOD FRUIT BECAUSE THE WORD'S SEED WAS GOOD AT THE POINT IT WAS RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE AND OVER YOUR LIFE.

iii) The nature of God's Word is that it is the EXALTED, SUPREME, FINAL AUTHORITY

We create a culture of Faith by declaring God's Exalted, Supreme, and Authoritative Word.

In legal terms it is the court of Highest Appeal, It is exalted above all other expert opinion, facts, view points, philosophies and reports.

Psalms 138:2 (KJV)

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

God himself has elevated and positioned his Word above all his name. What status/position have we given the Exalted, Supreme Word of God in our lives?

2 Corinthians 1:20 (KJV)

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. (God's Word is the Final Authority on the situation, it is yes and amen and it glorifies the King of Kings.) It settles the debate once and for all.

IF GOD'S WORD SAYS IT, THAT SETTLES IT!

I AM WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS I AM!

I HAVE WHAT HIS WORD SAYS I HAVE!

THE MOST POWERFUL WORDS WITH THE GREATEST IMPACT IN ANY HUMAN BEINGS' LIFE ARE THE WORDS FROM THE WORD OF GOD

The nature of God's Word is that it is exalted above all else.

In Conclusion: JESUS SAID: in

John 12:49 (KJV)

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

What are we confessing this morning, are we speaking as commanded, are we confessing the eternal, creative, authoritative Word of God, or are we confessing the opinions and ideologies of men. To create a culture of Faith we must declare God's Word in each and every situation and circumstance.

2. Show the next generation how REAL the unseen realm is.

Col 1:15-16

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Mark 11:23-24

"Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Hebrews 11:1-2

NIV: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

NKJV: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.