

Day to Day Belief in God

How many people come to church hoping to be convinced that what they are being told is true? For many people to believe or not believe seems to be more of an intellectual exercise. I'll believe in God if you give good, strong arguments and say the right things the right way. Or, some of us feel that seeing is believing and if we could just see the kind of miracle that we want to see then we might believe.

In the past God has revealed His power and existence in some very strong, overt, and powerful ways. One way that comes to mind is the Great Flood. He warned Noah, who was faithful and obedient, and Noah and his family were saved from the flood. On Passover, God sent his spirit to kill the first born of every family in Egypt that didn't follow the instructions God gave to Moses. Shortly after that, God separated the Dead Sea so His people could cross to safety. Then, as we heard earlier in the readings, God brought water out of a rock so His people could drink.

Notice how I said God did all of these things? Who did the people of Israel see get water out of the rock? Who warned them to protect their homes by putting blood around the entry-ways? Who did they see lift his arms when the sea separated? It was all Moses, wasn't it? And when there was no water and they were thirsty, who did they complain to? It was Moses. There seems to be something about us that wants to point at something we can see to explain everything. It's hard to grasp that God told Moses I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink. God was standing right there, invisible to all but active and the true source of the water.

God tells us over and over again that He is with us and Loves us and is watching over us. But I think we have a hard time feeling that some times. It's kind of like having an imaginary friend that you talk to from time to time. But you don't really believe your imaginary friend has any power over the world. The difference, of course, is that God isn't an imaginary friend. He's the creator of this entire universe that we live in and He wants to be a significant part of our lives. There is only one real requirement. We have to step forward with faith and accept that He's too big for us to fully understand. But if we Love Him, read his Word, and rest in the Holy Spirit He freely gives to each of us, then we can get a pretty good idea of what God is really like.

But how do we know? How do we know His is really involved and taking care of us on a daily basis? Well, let me ask you this? When you give thanks to God for your food, or your job, or your family, or whatever it happens to be you give him thanks for in prayer, do you really mean it? You see, I believe very strongly that God very intentionally got me the job where I am right now. That job he provided me is the reason I have food on my table and when I sit to eat I thank him at the very least quietly in my heart if not out loud.

You see, I still remember the days I was unemployed and hungry and I can't eat food without thinking about how grateful I am for what God has provided me. I know it had nothing to do with me because I've done job searches where He wasn't involved. I couldn't get a job at McDonald's. If we felt that

strongly about each thing that we ever gave thanks to God for, fully realizing He was there, in person, at the event, providing for you personally, how could you ever forget, or worry that He had abandoned you?

The truth is God is heavily involved in our day to day lives and provides us many things on a daily basis. That should be our constant reminder and proof that He is in our lives. It's important for us to not forget the daily miracles and take them for granted. Kind of like Israel did when they were fed for years with bread from heaven. After awhile I bet the wonder of that wore off, didn't it? They likely got sick of eating mostly the same thing day in and day out for years just like we take our plenty for granted. But when we forget to acknowledge the daily gifts God continues to provide us, I think we can start to forget how close and intimate of a relationship He wants with each of us. The proof of His love is not only in the past, but in every day of our lives if we'll stop long enough to give Him the thanks and glory for it.

I would like to challenge you over the next week to think about the many gifts God has given you and how personal and involved He is in your life because of those gifts. I hope that you will use that as a source of comfort when you feel abandoned or like He isn't listening. He's still right there, active in your life and sustaining those gifts He gave you. I hope you will rejoice in His faithfulness and His closeness.