

It is what it is?

Week of September 13

Most of us have either said or heard the expression: “Well, it is what it is.” To be fair, we may have arrived at this mindset in an attempt to accept certain circumstances (or people) at work or home—we learn to adjust to what we think cannot be changed. The danger is that complying with negativity and dysfunction overtime is unhealthy. If we settle for *what is* and never what *can be*, we lose hope and a part of our passion dies. We get stuck and may find ourselves doubting God’s ability to change our situation, the people around us, ourselves, or anything for that matter.

How do you get “unstuck”—out of the pit of doubt? The Bible says, “Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen” (Hebrews 11:1). The positive changes we long for at work, at home, in our marriage, in our finances, with our wayward child, with our health—is not only possible, it’s within reach when Jesus is passing by. The Lord told Abraham, leave home and go to another land because I have more for you (Genesis 12:1). Upon getting word that his 12-year-old daughter had died, Jesus told Jairus: “Don’t be afraid. Just have faith” (Mark 5:36). Everything changes when Jesus is in the house, and we decide to trust Him.

As you read the following Scripture from the book of Hebrews, be thinking about these questions: (1) How did the people mentioned in Hebrews 11:8-19 *not* give into the mindset of “Well, it is what it is”? (2) In what areas do I have the attitude: “Well, it is what it is”? (3) What difference will it make if I choose to believe God?

Read Hebrews 11:8-19

1. “It was by _____ that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by _____ --for he was like a foreigner living in tents” (fill in the blanks, vv8-9a).

Faith makes all the difference. Abraham could have said, “Well it is what it is. I might as well stay here in Ur.” But he didn’t. He chose to believe God even when the picture looked bleak. Abraham never possessed the Promised Land. He and Sarah moved there, but they lived like foreigners. When Abraham and Sarah finally had a baby, Abraham was asked to give his long-awaited son back to God, the son through whom his descendants would be counted. But “Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again” (Hebrews 11:19a).

Abraham was not a perfect man, but he held tightly to what the Lord had promised him: “All families on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:3b). Abraham had a special relationship with the Lord because he trusted the Lord. Abraham learned that God was his reward not this world, and God “counted him as righteous because of his faith” (Romans 4:3).

2. According to the following passages, what is it about faith that stirs the heart of God and produces results?

Matthew 21:21-22

Hebrews 11:6

The writer of Hebrews says the Lord “rewards those who sincerely seek Him.” It’s often adversity that brings a person to the point of *sincerely* seeking the Lord. As you read the following Scripture from the gospel of Mark, think about this question: What might change for me if I really believed that Jesus is in the house—that there is power in His Name and that He has the authority to heal and raise the dead?

Read Mark 5:21-43

3. What brought Jairus to the point of sincerely seeking the Lord?

What brought the suffering woman to the point of sincerely seeking the Lord?

It took the sickness of his little girl for this synagogue leader to fall at Jesus’ feet. It took twelve years of suffering for this woman to make her way through the crowd to reach out for the hem of Jesus’ robe. Suffering, pain, adversity can bring us to our knees. We live in a fallen and broken world, but difficult circumstances can become opportunities for us to exercise faith. Both Jairus and the woman could have stayed home thinking, “Well, there’s no use even leaving the house. It is what it is.” But, praise God, they didn’t. They heard that Jesus was passing through and they made a beeline for the Healer!

Perhaps you are dealing with something right now that you didn’t special-order. And if you could, you would opt out of your current challenge. Maybe you are put out with work (or out of work). Maybe you’ve lost the joy in your marriage. Perhaps you are suffering with an illness that is debilitating you. Maybe you are struggling with a rebellious child or an unhealthy relationship that is sucking the life out of you. It may be your own sin has you in chains. Perhaps your finances are upside, down. Whatever the situation, do you believe *it* doesn’t have to be this way?

4. Spend some time in prayer with the Lord—

Lord, I have some areas in my life that are a mess right now. I confess that I have had the attitude: “It is what it is.” I am ready for the following areas of my life to change (name them in the space below)—

Lord, your Word says FAITH = CONFIDENCE. Help me to start believing that what I hope for will actually happen (Hebrews 11:1). Help me to sincerely seek you in these areas, and start believing you for more. Here is what I am hoping for (list them in the space below)—

Lord, even if my circumstances don't change immediately, help me stay strong in you. Your promise to Abraham is still being fulfilled. Abraham did not see all of your promises fulfilled in his lifetime. Give me wisdom to see that my miracle – answers to my prayers – may be just over the horizon or after I am gone from this world. Help me to trust you, no matter what the negative voices are saying. Thank you, Lord, that you have come to make all things new. And that includes me. Amen.

One Year Bible Reading

Sept. 13: Isaiah 12:1-14:32, 2 Corinthians 13:1-14, Psalm 57:1-11, Prov. 23:9-11
Sept. 14: Isaiah 15:1-18:7, Galatians 1:1-24, Psalm 58:1-11, Proverbs 23:12
Sept. 15: Isaiah 19:1-21:17, Galatians 2:1-16, Psalm 59:1-17, Proverbs 23:13-14
Sept. 16: Isaiah 22:1-24:23, Galatians 2:17-3:9, Psalm 60:1-12, Proverbs 23:15-16
Sept. 17: Isaiah 25:1-28:13, Galatians 3:10-22, Psalm 61:1-8, Proverbs 23:17-18
Sept. 18: Isaiah 28:14-30:11, Galatians 3:23-4:31, Psalm 62:1-12, Prov. 23:19-21
Sept. 19: Isaiah 30:12-33:9, Galatians 5:1-12, Psalm 63:1-11, Proverbs 23:22



Text: Hebrews 11:8-19

The Plain Truth:

“It is what it is until you _____ God has _____ for you.”

1. You have to change either your physical or mental _____ from “here to there”.
 - a) _____ Person
 - b) The _____
 - c) The _____ Person
2. You have to get grit determined to claim God has _____.
3. View others and your world through Christ and not through your _____.

Our ultimate hope is not in government, finances nor political leaders. Our hope is found in the living Christ. You are urged to attend "The Response NC" Prayer event on Saturday, September 26 at the Charlotte Convention Center on 501 College Street Charlotte. Go to www.theresponsenc.com to register

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