

Having a New Normal

James 1:22-25 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Do what the Word says! Don't deceive yourself.

I wonder how many of us after hearing a dynamic message actually do what was taught?. A student can only do well when he/she applies that learning practically. Head knowledge alone isn't enough. Many times as Christians we do have a lot of head knowledge but do we practically apply this in our daily lives?

The Word shows us what we can do, however we got to have an adjustment in our lives to say, “so what am I going to do about what I have heard?”

We may have been coming to church Sunday after Sunday, heard the word Sunday after Sunday and until we make an adjustment in our world to accommodate what we have learned and put that into action nothing will change.

We need to define a New Normal. The NN is active not passive. Passivity in our lives does not get us anywhere. Passivity to our enemy Satan will keep us in bondage to its sinful effects.

To walk in the New Normal we have to be doers of the Word of God. It is no use just reading it. Many read it. The atheist, unbeliever read the bible too and it remains ineffective in their lives.

Even as Christians simply reading the word of God without actual application of it will keep us ineffective. Many of us do courses of one thing or another and following the theory if we don't practically apply those principles nothing will change. All we would have done was go on a nice course but our situation can remain the same.

The Word of God carries many promises and these promises carry a premise / condition and the only way the promise comes to pass is when we are in relationship with the giver of that promise and walking in his will. eg. if my kids choose to ostracise themselves from us then they cannot expect to share in their inheritance. Similarly we as christians want Gods promises for us however we have to keep the premise of the promise and the relationship with the originator of that promise to see it come to pass.

A promise is an offer with a guaranteed result. It is an offer and the guaranteed result comes when we adhere to the terms of the offer. Can you see that! *Num 23:19 God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfil?*

To walk in the New Normal we need an impossible situation - because an impossible situation will cause faith to arise in us causing us to do something radical or different to over come that impossible situation. We grow when our faith is challenged. How many of us like tests? How many of us like using things that have been tested?

What is tested can be trusted. God does not stop us facing impossible situations in our lives because through it God is causing our character to be stronger in order to face the next battle or situation. God does it for our benefit not His. God tests us so that we can be trusted. What is tested can be trusted!

There is a saying that goes like this, *"Your gift cannot keep you where your character cannot hold you"*

God told Moses in Numbers 20:1-13 to **speak** to the rock when the children of Israel contended with him for water. Instead Moses struck the rock twice as that was what he was used to when he did that at Mount Horeb (Ex 17:6)

God had a different strategy this time for Moses and that was to *speak not strike* the rock. The measure of success in the Lord's eyes is not the outcome of the effort, but the obedience of his servant.

The New Normal can be experienced when you have nothing to loose. In 2Kings 7:1-10 there was a severe famine in Samaria and the king of Syria had besieged Samaria. Everything was very expensive as there was no food.

- Two women agreed to sacrifice their sons for food...
- The King of Israel was angry with Prophet Elisha and sent his messenger to Elisha whilst he followed.
- God gave Elisha a word for the king, that food will be really cheap the next day... and the king's servant doubted the word of the Lord and could not enjoy the benefits as he was trampled under foot at the gate of the city.
- 4 lepers (v3) who were outcasts had nothing to loose but everything to gain and they decided to go to the Syrian camp to find food. They said if we stay where we are we will die and if we go into the city we will die too and so they decided to go to the Syrian camp and surrender.
- As they were walking God caused their movement to sound like a mighty army approaching that panicked the Syrians... who left everything and ran.
- When the lepers came they found no one and they ate and drank and hid a lot for later but they did not stop there, they thought about the starving people in the city and went and gave them the good news.

When you have nothing to loose and you take that leap of faith God can cause your enemies to flee. You've got nothing to loose but everything to gain in Jesus.

God's word has the power to create and shape you. God has given us authority - to Author your world not to be a victim of your circumstances. Many today walk around with a 'victim' mentality rather than having God's Authority in them.

Are you a victim or an Authority? God's promise is from your future to your present. God is surrounding that which is surrounding you.

There are Christians with lots of opinions but no game. There are many who like to blame others when they have no game of their own. The King blamed Elisha for the drought.

Often it is the useless things, the overlooked things, and in this case, the 4 lepers who decided to do something. **The cost of doing nothing is greater than the cost of doing something.**

In Ps 78:41 it says they *tempted God and limited the Holy One of Israel*.

Are we continuously tempting God, rebelling against God, disobeying what He is saying? Being careless about His word and not willing to obey what's in His word? Then we are like those rebellious Israelites who despite all that God did for them... limited the Holy One of Israel in their lives. God can make you sound louder than your best efforts, like a mighty army when you obey Him and walk in His ways. He can make you sound like something much greater.

Ps 138: 1-3 Thank you! Everything in me says "Thank you!" Angels listen as I sing my thanks. I kneel in worship facing your holy temple and say it again: "Thank you!" Thank you for your love, thank you for your faithfulness; Most holy is your name, most holy is your Word. The moment I called out, you stepped in; you made my life large with strength.

God's word and His promise spoken into your life will come to pass. Be doers of Gods word, embrace the impossible situations for you will have nothing to loose.

Jesus loves you. He has an amazing plan for your life. Only Jesus can go into those places where it has hurt you most and turn it around for good. Only Jesus can save you from your sin and surround you with His power. He died for you and He rose again from the dead for you. Will you trust Jesus?

Prayer : Lord Jesus, I acknowledge my sin, I know you died for me to set me free. I repent of all sin in my life and I ask you to forgive me. Be my Lord and Saviour. Amen