

Decalogue of Faith

How To Make Jesus A Liar!

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The last week in Malawi before returning home is always hectic. Return reservations must be confirmed and begin stuffing suitcases. We were preparing to fly out on Friday, but Thursday morning I rechecked the tickets to make sure everything was ok. Then I saw the sickening fact. Our flight was scheduled to leave in less than two hours and the airport is a hours drive away.

I screamed as I ran to Gladys. “We’re supposed to leave in less than two hours.” She checked the tickets and tried to calm me. She had been washing and would you believe she dumped wet clothing into a travel bag? Fortunately there was a vehicle handy and a brother drove us to the airport. We arrived with just enough time to check in, go through passport control, clear customs and rush onto the plane breathless and hearts pounding.

As the plane taxied we thanked the Lord for getting us on the plane. There’s only one flight a week and seven days is a long wait for the next flight. About the time I started breathing normally again I suddenly realized a major problem. Our S. African contact was supposed to meet us tomorrow, not today. We would land in Joberg. around 5:30 p.m., a day early and the only phone contact we had was a church number. We didn’t have the address where we would be staying since the church had recently purchased the Reinhard Bonnke headquarters. Talk about confusion. What now?

We prayed: “Lord work this mess out. Have someone meet us at the airport.” He gave us peace and rest. It would be OK.

We landed on time, claimed our luggage, cleared customs and passport control and walked into the international hall expecting someone to meet us. Glad and I studied each person, but there wasn’t one familiar face among them.

After minutes of my negative vocalizing Glad suggested we call Bob Daniels, a dear friend. His wife answered and said Bob had just left for a weekly cell meeting and was more than an hour from Jan Smut airport, but she would call him and he would come. I went outside where the autos unloaded passengers and waited. Although it was spring an unexpected cold front came roaring through and dropped the wind chill to cold.

Meanwhile the pastor who was scheduled to pick us up tomorrow felt disturbed and decided to drive to the airport and check, just in case. Sure enough he found us. What a blessed relief, but what about our friend who was coming to fetch us? Pastor Jan took Glad and the luggage to our quarters and went to an elder’s meeting while I waited for Pastor Daniels.

During the next two hours I paced **and looked and waited**. Seconds seemed like hours and an hour seemed like a week. But I waited. You can understand the thoughts I thought, some good and some not so good. **During this time of confusion** the Lord **got through and** reminded me He had assured me He would take care of the situation. **But no one met us** when we landed and now I’m **shivering** in the cold watching and waiting for my solution to the problem.

Then I heard Him speak. **“You believe IN Me, but you don’t believe ME! I gave you My word, but you didn’t believe what I said even though I said what I meant and meant what I said. You believe IN Me, but you don’t believe Me!”**

Folks, that’s an embarrassing and miserable way to learn a lesson. Cold, lonely and feeling forsaken in a foreign country. Even though He said He would work it out I doubted His Word and tried my own solution. **I believed IN Him, but I didn’t believe His word.**

Here’s what I learned.

1. Jesus said: “Don’t be afraid.” If you don’t talk about it you won’t get it. This is the first thing Satan does to get you into trouble. “But God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7). When anyone questions God’s Word all that’s left is a frightful hell. Does this mean believers don’t fear? It seems as though Satan is always present, but questioning God’s Word only magnifies your inner insecurities.

When Adam and Eve doubted God’s word they immediately fell into fear. They didn’t know what they were afraid of, but they hid themselves from God anyway. Their excuse was: “We were afraid.” It was Satan’s scheme then and he uses the same approach now. Question God’s word, fall into fear and you’re finished.

2. Jesus said: “You can!”

Unless you want to contradict God’s word don’t say, “I can’t,” because the Word says: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13). Paul’s life wasn’t a bed of soft pillows. His enemies constantly tried to destroy him. He didn’t ride a BMW donkey, wear designer suits or have extra money, but he was committed. He

made up his mind he wouldn't deny the Lord even if it cost him his life and it did. What he gained was an abundant entrance into heaven and a grand reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

3. Jesus said, "You're strong so don't say you're weak."

The Word says: "Let the weak say, 'I am strong'"(Joel 3:10).

We don't know what the apostle Paul looked like but his enemies said his bodily presence was weak (2 Cor. 10:10). Apparently he wasn't an all American athlete or a handsome fashion model, but he had giant spunk. Listen to this! "Five times the Jews beat me with forty stripes less one. Three times the Jews stoned me; three times I've been shipwrecked; a night and day I drifted at sea. I've been in perils of waters, perils of robbers, perils of my own countrymen, perils of the Gentiles, perils of the city, the sea, the wilderness and false brethren. I've been weary, sleepless, hungry, thirsty and fasting often and in cold and nakedness." Wait! There's more! "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." That powerful preacher wasn't a wimp or a quitter. He may have been short on the outside, but he was one big man on the inside.

The Word says: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psa. 27:1).

Even the ungodly know actions are governed by spoken words, so say it: "I am strong."

4. Jesus said "Don't worry."

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Pet. 5:7). Take your burdens to the Lord and...leave them there. How does it work?

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ” (Phil. 4:6-7).

What will He guard? Your heart and mind. It’s through these two vehicles the enemy defeats you. That’s why Paul said to cast down vain imaginations and every contrary thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of Christ Jesus and bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5). Jesus said Satan comes only to steal, destroy and kill. He doesn’t want to just harm you; he wants to kill you. If he can trouble your thoughts he’ll destroy your desire and steal your possessions. He wants to kill you.

Do you realize most things you worry about never happens? I know it’s glib to say “Why worry when you have the mind of Jesus Christ, but how do we apply it? Say it again and again. “Lord I’m in your hands and by faith I’m not taking me back again. I will not worry or fret.”

5. Jesus said, “Be healed.”

The Bible is emphatic. “He Himself took our infirmities and bore out sicknesses” (Mt. 8:17). “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:5). “I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you” (Ex. 15:26).

God’s medicine is His gosPILL. When you’re sick take two healing scriptures by mouth and confess them continually until you’re healed. No, you’re not forcing God to fulfill His Word; you’re reinforcing your faith.

6. Jesus said “Fear no evil.”

“A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you” (Psa. 91:7). “No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling”(Psa. 91:10). “For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways” (Psa.91:11). “And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.”(2 Tim. 4:18).

Although we live in a violent society believers don’t have to fear. Jesus said

“I will not leave you or forsake you. Believe IN Me and... believe ME. “

7. Jesus said you would succeed.

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all” (Psa. 34:19). Jesus said, “If you abide in My words and My words abide in you...you will not fail.”

Many people stumble through childhood beaten down, ridiculed by classmates, rejected by unconcerned parents, stigmatized by society and yes, believing they will fail. Those inferior feelings plus the uncertainties of adolescence aren’t the best foundation for adulthood. No vision, goals or purpose, just drifting. “Where there is no vision people perish.”

Hear this! God believes in you. So much so He became man for the unique purpose of dying on the cross just for you. That’s why you can’t fail if you’ll just believe

Him. God didn't call you, redeem you and give you thousands of promises in order to watch you fall short of His goal.

8. Jesus said "Don't fear man."

Jesus said: "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19). But

"The fear of man brings a snare" (Prov. 29:25). "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"(1 Jn. 4:4). "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37). "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14). Our victory is only IN Christ. In Him we live and move and have our being. Outside of Him we fail every time.

There is no greater example of this confidence than the early Christians who paraded into the coliseum where thousands of socialized Romans watched curiously as wild animals ripped them apart and ate them. It is said the believers gathered in a circle with the women and children in the middle surrounded by the men. With one voice they loudly praised God as they marched into His glory. Although the monster Nero thought his ethnic cleansing would rid his world of Christians who refused to acknowledge either he or the Roman government was divine, he actually increased their numbers. When the Roman citizens witnessed their courageous confidence in the Living God new converts left the arena. They went in as atheists and left as convinced believers.

9. Jesus said "I am your shepherd, you shall not want."

"I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his seed begging bread" (Psa. 37:25).

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ

Jesus” (Phil. 4:19). He demonstrated the point by feeding the 4 and 5 thousand with a handful of fish and bread. You shall not want so why worry?

10. Jesus said He would never forsake us.

“The steps of a good man are established by the LORD” (Psa. 37:23). “Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass” (Psa. 37:5). “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God”(Rom.8:14).

When you go through the floods He’ll be there with you. When the hosts of hell attack you He’s in the battle with you. Whenever, whatever and where ever anything happens He’s there and remember: He’s already won every battle.

11. Jesus said: “Don’t be discouraged.”

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed Me to heal the brokenhearted, to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of Praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified” (Isa. 61:2-3).

The world doesn’t need or want any more ritualistic religion or faithless faith. They want virtual reality and when they encounter the real the false falls away. Jesus began His earthly ministry with this passage from Isaiah and immediately began delivering people from dead religion. Manifest to the world the indwelling Conquering Christ and manifest His saving delivering power through us and the world will believe. **We believe IN Him, now believe Him.**