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You Can Trust Your Father

Dear Friend,

A tool public speakers often employ to help convey messages to their audience is to use real world examples with which their audience can identify. In so doing, their points are more easily understood. Instead of asking the audience to consider abstract concepts it's better to have them envision things that draw on their own memories. Remembering often sparks emotions and takes the audience right back to those times. It gives them a richer listening experience and makes it more likely that they will remember the message the speaker is trying to convey.

With that in mind, instead of me using abstract concepts, I'm going to ask you to remember back to some of your own life experiences in an effort to make what I believe to be a very important point become real to you. My hope is that the times I'm going to describe will stir up your own memories and emotions and cause you to see yourself back in those situations.

If I'm successful, when we are finished you will not only have had the enjoyment of recounting some very pleasant memories, but you will also have connected with the message I believe the Holy Ghost desires for me to convey to you. All too often people walk away from a message or a church service and wonder, "What, exactly, was that all about?" Maybe what we are going to do here will help keep that from happening.

To begin with, I would like you to think back to when you were a child and your mother or father was making plans for you to do something you enjoyed doing. In some cases maybe they were making plans for you to go on a vacation. Or, maybe they were planning a day of fun at a lake or recreation area. Whatever the case, think back to those times when you were anticipating a future event and how excited you were and how you couldn't stop thinking about it. Maybe you lay in bed trying to envision what this special time was going to be like. If you are like me, you probably counted the days until it finally came.

I remember as a boy when my dad and I would plan a day of fishing or hunting and I would lay out all my clothes the night before in preparation for the big day. All I had to do was to wake up and step into my clothes and we were out the door. All of the time spent waiting and thinking about our day together was never quite as good as the actual experience itself. But one thing I'm sure of, it would have been impossible for me not to have thought and planned out that experience in my mind. In other words, once dad said we were going then my expectancy went through the roof.

My point here is that I believed my dad when he said we were going. I know some people reading this might not have had a dad like I did who could be believed, which might be why you struggle now to believe God, your Heavenly Father. I thank God I had a dad whose word was good and I could trust to do what he said he would do. I had such trust in his word that once he said something I could begin to set my hope in that direction, envisioning all that he said we would do.

So, assuming you too had good parents, in whose word you were able to trust, taking them at their word was a very natural thing. So, think about those times when they said; "This weekend we are going to do this..." Maybe it was something you had never done before, a place you had never been, having food you had never eaten. Whatever the case, up until the moment you arrived at your promised destination all you could do was - what? All you could do was think about it, envision the fun you would have, think about how the food was going to taste, and picture the mountains you would climb. All of this was happening inside of you before you ever arrived because you knew your parent's word was good.

This is how God made us to be. He made us to be believers, to believe what we are told and to act like what we are told is going to happen, even to the point that we begin envisioning the outcome the moment we hear the words spoken. That being the case, let me ask you this; "How are you at envisioning your Heavenly Father right now? We trust that He hears us when we pray, but do we carry it to the next level and treat God like He is real? Do we have an expectancy in our hearts of spending time with God both here and in heaven? Or are we so entangled with our daily lives that we have not time to envision the things of God, what our life should look like as sons here on earth, heaven, eternity with our Heavenly Father, what it's going to be like to see Jesus face to face?

The process we use in the natural, whereby we put human faith in what we are told by those we trust causing us to envision their words, is much like the process we have of taking God's word and envisioning what He has said to create images in us based on His word.

My question to you is this; “Do you have as much confidence in God’s word as you do the word of a parent or trusted friend?” In other words, do you envision the promises in God’s Word about yourself, your future in Him, the reality of God in your life, and your eternal destiny as though they are more real than the world around you? For example, just as I could hear my dad tell me we were going to spend the day together and my imagination would go to work picturing all the fish I was going to catch and all the fun we would have together based solely on dad’s word; am I taking God’s word to me and allowing my imagination to paint pictures of all that His word says is mine now, as well as, what awaits me once I leave this earth?

When you read the words Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17 just before His crucifixion are you able to allow your imagination to take these words, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, paint imagines on the canvas of your heart?
(John 17:22-23)

“And the glory which thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: (23) I in them, and thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved Me.”

What a prayer Jesus prayed to the Father. These words are hardly ever mentioned in churches because of how difficult it is to believe. First of all, Jesus’ prayer regarding the glory is not a future event. Notice He said, “I have given them.” Once we accept the Lordship of Jesus we receive this glory that He has already given to us. What is this glory? In the first chapter of this same book John tells us what this glory is. (John 1:14)

“...(and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father)”

Jesus’ glory was the glory of being The Son of God. **The glory He gave us is the glory of being sons of God.** My question to you is this: “Do you see yourself right now as being a son of the living God?” If we can see ourselves now the way the Bible describes us as born again children of God, many of the things we struggle with will fall by the way side.

By simply taking God at His word and allowing the Holy Ghost to use His word to create images on the inside of us what happens is that we move from religious rituals to a living, vibrant fellowship with our Lord Jesus and our Heavenly Father. We no longer have to go through the motions of “religion” in which we are trying

to serve God out of obligation. We can have a daily, moment by moment walk with God because He has become real to us.

Look at these promises from God's word of who He wants to be in your life and who He has made you to be in His family. (Romans 8:16)

“The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

We need to see ourselves right now as the children of God that He has made us to be. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

We, who are born again, have been made righteous in God's righteousness. This is how we need to see ourselves. By allowing the Holy Ghost to take these verses and make them real to our hearts we can see ourselves as we truly are as children of God.

What I am describing is a believer seeing through the eyes of their faith and looking beyond natural restrictions, which is how God wants us to function in this world. God's word to us should become more real than the world around us. His word should become more real to us than the images we had as kids of those days of fishing with our dad because we have an even greater force behind these words; God Himself.

The potential in God's word to produce is always present, but the potential is only realized when those words stand up on the page and step into our hearts. Once they become real to us, then and only then, can we enjoy the fruit that the word of God can produce. It's then that we stop praying to thin air and we see ourselves talking to a living person; God Himself. We allow His word to paint images in us of sick people raising up off their death beds. We see beyond this natural world and begin to operate according to God's limitless potential.

I do not believe God ever intended for His church to be heaped in tradition and religious rituals. It's man who has created what we have come to know as church, which in most cases is what Paul calls; (2 Timothy 3:5)

“...a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:”

Paul's instruction to Timothy was to turn away from such a thing. Turn away from powerless rituals and turn back to God and His word! Allow His word to become real to you. This will require you to trust your Heavenly Father more than a parent or trusted friend. In so doing, you will begin to see the things God's word says about you, your future and who He wants to be to you come alive in your heart. God is alive! Jesus is alive! He wants to become real to you, more real than this natural world around you, and He can by us taking His word and simply believing it is true.

Allow His word to become more real to you than what you see with your natural eyes, what you feel, and what the world around you tries to tell you is truth. God's word is truth! You can trust your Father!

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins