

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mrs. Carswell, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Spell and Luke, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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It Just Won't Work

By Derek Long

When deciding upon a course of action to be taken, one of our major concerns at times might be whether or not it will work. Most people are hesitant to take actions they do not believe will work. A challenge arises for people with this mindset when God prescribes a certain course of action they believe will not work. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (NKJV). One way we walk by faith and not by sight is we trust God and do what He says even when we do not see how His way will work. Walking by faith instead of by sight requires us to realize God knows more than we do and His ways are better than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9; Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).

God has commanded people to do things throughout time which might seem like it would not work. Yet people of faith trusted God, did what He said to do, and found God's way did work. In Genesis 22 God commands Abraham to do something which might seem like it would not work. God had promised to make of Abraham's descendants a great nation, to give his descendants the land of Canaan, and through his seed to bless all families of the earth (Genesis 12:1-7). God did not immediately give Abraham a child. Questions came up about who would be the one through whom God would fulfill His promises to Abraham (Genesis 15:1-4; 16:1-4). Eventually God clearly identifies Isaac as the one through whom the promises would be fulfilled (Genesis 17:18-21). In Genesis 22 before Isaac is married and has any children God tells Abraham, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Mori-

ah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you” (vs. 2, NKJV). If Abraham kills Isaac, how is God going to fulfill His promises made to Abraham? One could look at God’s command for Abraham to kill Isaac and think such will not work but Abraham’s faith led him to obey God trusting fully God’s way would work (Hebrews 11:17-19). In Joshua 6 God gives instructions to the children of Israel about how to take the walled Jericho. God tells them to march around the city once a day for six days and on the seventh day to march around the city seven times. On the seventh day they people were to give a great shout and the wall of the city would fall down flat. See Joshua 6:1-5. Such does not seem like a viable strategy on the surface for taking a walled city. Yet the people trusted God, did what He told them to do, and the walls of the city fell down flat (Joshua 6:6-20; Hebrews 11:30). In 2 Kings 5 Naaman the leper comes to Elisha the prophet to be healed. Elisha sends instructions by a messenger to Naaman about what he needs to do to be healed. The instructions were, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean” (2 Kings 5:10, NKJV). Naaman initially responds by thinking such is not a good idea (2 Kings 5:11-12) and we might would think will such really work. Yet when Naaman is finally convinced by his servants to do what the prophet instructed him to do, it worked and Naaman was healed of his leprosy (2 Kings 5:13-14). I am sure you can think of other examples in the Bible where God told someone to do something which might not seem like it would work but when they did what God commanded it did work.

Today there are people who read what God commands them to do and yet refuse to obey God’s commandments because they have convinced themselves God’s way will not work. God has taught us what to do in order to bring back a wayward brother who refuses to repent (1 Corinthians 5:1-13). People will read a passage like this, understand what it is saying, but sadly not obey it because they believe it just won’t work. Such is an indication of perhaps pride or unbelief in the individual who would say or think such a thing. God has designed the church to be, “the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15, NKJV). Yet there are some who think the church is incapable of carrying out the work of spreading the gospel throughout the world and think a missionary society, etc. is needed to spread

the gospel throughout the world. Such is essentially saying I don’t think God’s plan for the church will work. Yet in the first century the church without a missionary society or any organization beyond the local church was able to carry the gospel throughout the world (Colossians 1:5-6, 23). God’s word teaches the gospel is the power God uses to save men (Romans 1:16) and men will be drawn to Christ as they are taught by God (John 6:44-45). Yet some insist the gospel is not sufficient to draw men to God and attempt to supplement the gospel with food, fun, and frolic in hopes of bringing people to Christ. Such demonstrates an attitude which feels God’s way of drawing men will not work. God’s word teaches a person must be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). People might reject the idea of baptism being essential to salvation and yet such demonstrates an attitude which says God’s way will not work. Let’s not be people who reject God’s will because we do not think it will work! Let’s instead be people who trust God enough we know His way will work and so we will do whatever it is He commands us to do!