

Week 45
309/56

Transforming Daily

“ . . . show me a sign that it is You who talks with me . . . ”
Judges 6:17

Many people want to have signs and tangible evidence to prove what is otherwise not provable concerning the existence of God and His miracles. Belief in God and His miracles requires faith. His existence and miracles are propositions of faith, and lead to faith crises. Gideon was literally faced with the Angel of the Lord claiming to be so, and with what it is that God required of Gideon. But Gideon was suspicious of who He said He was. Hence, Gideon was faced with a crisis of belief.

In and of itself, there is nothing wrong with Gideon “testing the spirits” (1 John 4:1), as it were. However, Gideon ultimately pushes the matter beyond respectful bounds (Judges 6:39). The point is matters of faith can’t always be substantiated by tangible means. This is where the believer must exercise faith and trust in God’s Word.

What is interesting about Gideon’s request that the Angel prove His case is that after the Angel of the Lord does so (v.21-23), Gideon “freaks out” that he is going to die. However, as it is with everyone who places more trust in the miracles of God rather than God Himself, just as soon as the event is over, or has become familiar to them, they want God to prove Himself all over again.

Adrian Rogers wrote a book entitled, *Believe in Miracles, but Trust in Jesus!* The title sums up the right perspective for the believer. Signs and wonders are amazing and they have their place. However, for the 21st century believer and nonbeliever alike there is no need for more signs and wonders (yet prophecy says there are many to come) to invoke his or her faith and trust in God. Personal faith and trust in God grows in the believer as he or she matures in the faith. For the maturing Christian, decision making and acts of obedience are based on continued spiritual discipline and diligent Bible study. It isn’t enough just to throw the Bible open and stick one’s finger on a passage of Scripture and say, “This is what God wants for me today!”

One of my professors used to tell the story of a man looking for a “word from God” threw open his Bible, and with his eyes closed, set his finger on the last part of Matthew 27:5 where it says of Judas “and went out and hanged himself.” Not satisfied with that “word from God,” the man closed the Bible, and once again, threw it open, eyes closed, put his finger down and it landed on the last part of Luke 10:37 where it says, “Go and do likewise.” Humorous? Yes, but it’s sad.

Many believers operate the very same way. They’re so bent on having a tangible experience from God that will prove His existence “beyond a reasonable doubt,” that they miss the existing presence of God that can only be experienced by grace through faith. Is God’s general revelation in creation, His special revelation through Jesus Christ, and the Bible enough evidence for you to trust Him? Or do you find yourself asking God to, “show me a sign that it is you who talks with me?”