

BELIEVABLE BELIEVERS

I. We need to become believable believers.

- The emphasis is on believable.
- **Heard Testimonies that didn't match my experience.**
 1. It is hard to take an ordinary man from an ordinary background and tell him "he must be god-like."
 - a. **People will say "that is not very Christ like."**
 - b. Romans 8:29, the goal of the Christian life.
 - c. **Elizabeth Talor said "just because I'm not good at marriage"**
 2. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
 - a. **Peter spoke by the spirit and by the devil**
Peter walked on water and sunk
Peter act courageous in front of the soldiers, but acted like a coward in front of the servants.
 - b. He went from flowing to failing to flowing to failing.
 - c. **Christianity is not about a mandate to be perfect but a means to be perfected.**
 3. Paul the Apostle referred to himself as the "Chief of Sinners" and yet we continually eat a perfect word from his stained hands.
 - a. **The heroes in the bible were not perfect, but they were powerful. Here is a list of some of God's best.**
 - Noah drunk and naked in his own tent.
 - **Abraham lying and putting his wife at risk of rape to save himself.**
 - Lot having an incestuous relationship with his daughter.
 - **Moses murdering an Egyptian to prove that God sent him.**
 - Aaron doing fireside aerobics in front of a golden calf.
 - **David committing adultery and then murder to cover it.**
 - Peter the rock, denying and cussing before a frail servant girl.
 - b. **They were not superhuman, but they were revelatory.**
 - c. They were often chastised and corrected, but they were never discarded
 - **Out of their struggle to live for God they gained insight**
 - Psalm 51 - If I were writing the Bible I would leave that chapter out

- **If we wrote a book about our life would we leave certain chapters out.**
- d. When we share with others do we share both victories and failures, strengths and weaknesses and obediences and disobediences.
- **I have found that people can relate to me more in my weaknesses than they can in my strengths.**
 - The Bible is a great book because we can relate to it.
 - **No other Holy book paints it's Hero's with such honesty.**
3. **God can't change into somebody you are pretending to be already.**
1 Corinthians 5:6 & 2 Timothy 2:13. (John Stanko)
4. Hebrews 11:32-34 - Heroes of the faith.
- a. **This scripture declares that these heroes were made strong out of weakness. In order to be a real success, you must be strengthened through struggle.**
- b. Look at these men mentioned in Hebrews 11:32. Examine their lives. They were not glaring examples of flawless character; yet they epitomized faith toward God.
- c. **Gideon failed by requesting a sign. Barak wouldn't go into battle unless the queen went with him. Samson shined on the battlefield but had struggles in the bedroom. Jephthah made a foolish and destructive vow**
- d. We must be careful when judging the weak moments in their lives. We must consider the entirety of their lives. 1 Corinthians 4:5
- e. **If we do, we will see that a dent in their armor did not disqualify them for the battle**

C. Although heroes don't have to be perfect, they must be people who are resilient enough to survive tragedy and adversity.

Resiliency is the ability to bounce back - Popeye

1. **If you don't survive, you can't save someone else from it.**
2. Live long enough to invest the wealth of your experience in the release of some other victim whom Satan desires to bind or incapacitate. 2 Cor. 1:3&4
 - **I survived a 30 year prison sentence**
 - I survived a serious blow to my credibility and reputation
 - **I survived a betrayal of a best friend**

3. God has a different definition of peace and safety than we do. To be wounded in the fight is a great honor.
 - **It is by the Lord's stripes that we are healed, and it is through our stripes that we, too, are given the authority (passion and power) for healing (purpose).**
 - In the very place that the enemy wounds us, once we are healed, we are given the power to heal others.
 - **Lord allows bad things to happen to His people, so that they can receive the compassion for others by which the power of healing operates.**
 - Every every bad thing that happens to us, can be turned into the authority to do good. Isaiah 54:17
4. **I can't help but wonder if we have forsaken some of God's finest people, because they have failed and have come under attack.**
 - a. They could bring us a voice from the grave - they could if we allowed them express the truth that there is life after death.
 - b. Dead circumstances cannot hold down the body of someone who has been chosen**
5. Thank God for the heros of the Bible who remind us that if we were put out to pasture by closed minds who decided that our dry bones couldn't live again, that there is God that is still in the business of recycling human lives.
 - a. Revival must start in the trash can of our churches and community.**
 - b. Because in ignorance and religious pride we have discarded what God has regarde
 - c. I'm afraid we have killed our heros because we were looking for the Superhuman and perfect.**
 - d. Its time for us to redefine and redirect our gaze to find the heros of God among us
 - e. We must forget that God purposely chooses to use misplaced and rejected people.**

HE MAY BE LOOKING IN YOUR DIRECTION