

Sermon Notes

RE–EXPERIENCE: Experiencing God in Your Life

Part 6: Some “field adjustments” may be necessary

“Will God ever ask you to do something you are not able to do? The answer is yes – all the time! It must be that way, for God’s glory and kingdom. If we function according to our ability alone, we get the glory; if we function according to the power of the Spirit within us, God gets the glory. He wants to reveal Himself to a watching world.”

-Henry T. Blackaby, Experiencing the Spirit: The Power of Pentecost Every Day

“Christians have a natural tendency to try building a life in which faith is unnecessary. We establish a comfort zone where everything is in ‘our’ control ... ” -Henry Blackaby, Experiencing God

- We are not speaking of a normal crisis. We are speaking of a crisis of belief.
- Whatever you say or do next reveals what you believe about God.

1. If you are going to obey God, you may have to make changes.

“You can’t stay where you are and go with God in obedience to His will.”

-Henry Blackaby, Experiencing God

Luke 9:23-24 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

- Most of us want God to speak to us.
- Most of us want God to lead us in His will.
- Most of us want God to work through us in mighty ways.
- Few of us are willing to do what it takes to obey God.

The two major turning points in doing God’s will:

1. Persevering through the “crisis of belief”
2. Making the necessary adjustments to obey God

2. Obedience is costly

Hebrews 11:35-38 Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — 38of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

Hebrews 11:25-26 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Acts 14:22 “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

John 16:33 “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

3. Obedience “will” require changes

“Until you are ready to make any change necessary to follow and obey what God has said, you will be of little use to God.” Henry Blackaby

4. Once adjustments are made, God is able to work

5. God will work according to His schedule, not ours

Psalms 37:34 Wait on the Lord, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land;

Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

6. What adjustments will God require?

- Your circumstances: job, home, finances
- Your relationships: family, friends, business assoc.
- Your thinking: prejudices, methodology, planning
- Your commitments: family, church, job, tradition
- Your actions: how you pray, give, serve
- Your beliefs: about God, His purposes, His ways

7. The cost of disobedience

Luke 18:22-23 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” 23But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

“Forbid that we should ever consider the holding of a commission from the King of Kings a sacrifice, so long as other men esteem the service of an earthly government as an honor. I am a missionary, heart and soul. God Himself had an only Son, and He was a missionary and a physician. A poor, poor imitation I am, ... but in this service I wish to live. In it I wish to die. I still prefer poverty and missions service to riches and ease. This is my choice.” -David Livingstone, Missionary to Africa

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot, Missionary to Auca Indians in S. America

“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice is too great for me to give for Him.”
C.T. Studd, Missionary to China, India, & Africa

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Philippians 2:7-8 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.