

Mission Possible: Introduction
February 5, 2017
Lynn Haven UMC

Introduction

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!” (John 14:12-14 NLT)

There is power in the name of Jesus. The disciples experienced this power in a way we can only imagine as they witnessed the miraculous tasks He accomplished while in their presence. Today, we must step out in faith and declare ourselves victorious, in Jesus’ name, over whatever is weighing us down and preventing a true transformation in our journey to become more like Him. It is a step we are required to make as believers, but one that is built upon the back of many, much smaller preparatory steps. We must first learn to crawl in our faith journey, so that one day we can run with full abandon into Jesus’ loving arms. And on that glorious day, we all hope to hear “well done my good and faithful servants!”

“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13 NLT).

Digging Deeper

We are able to continue Jesus’ ministry and fulfill our mission when we...

BELIEVE

- Jesus tells us that we can ask for anything in His name and He will do it. Even the disciples had a hard time believing they could do all the things Jesus did by simply believing and invoking His name. And they saw it with their own eyes! How much harder is it for us today having had no physical witness to Him in action. When others ask you why you believe, what are some of the reasons you provide for your faith? What has been one of the biggest struggles you have faced in either forming, or strengthening, your belief system?

“Anything is possible if a person believes.” (Mark 9:23b NLT)

ASK

- To pray in Jesus’ name is to pray on the basis of Jesus’ authority, but it also involves praying according to the will of God, for the will of God is what Jesus always did (John 6:38 NLT). This truth is stated explicitly in 1 John 5:14 (NLT), “And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.” However, our requests must be in harmony with the will of God. Do you think it is ok to ask God for all things, no matter how big or small? Do you think doing so is an important piece of building a relationship with God?
- Psalm 37:4 (NLT) says, “Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart’s desires.” We know this doesn’t mean you’ll get whatever you ask for if you will just believe. This speaks to the condition of our hearts. When you come to better understand the ways of the Lord, the

desires of your heart tend to shift into alignment with the things He desires for you. Have you found this truth to become more pronounced the further you advance in your faith journey? Can you share an example of a heart's desire that was changed when you considered it from the perspective of "Is this for me, or for God?"

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8 NLT)

ACT

- What are some of the attributes of Jesus Christ? Which of these attributes do you most need to develop? Whom have you seen or known in your life who exemplifies these attributes?
- Jesus' life and ministry in the world is continued through the lives and ministries of His followers. Psst....that's all of us, in case you missed that part! Jesus set the perfect example and as we learn more about Him, our hearts should be stirred to put our feet in motion for Him. Is there a particular ministry that you feel God might be calling you to explore? If yes, what's holding you back? If no, you can speak to someone at church this Sunday, or call the church office to find out more about the many servant opportunities that could benefit from your specific God given talents.

Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible." (Matthew 19:26 NLT)

Conclusion

Christ has given us a seemingly impossible mission that becomes possible only when we believe in Jesus, ask in His name, and act in the same ways Christ acted. When we follow this formula, Jesus promises two things will happen: We'll continue His ministry and then some, and these greater works will bring glory to God our Father.