

Becoming Fully Persuaded

Hello, Church. My name is Shannan Thomas. Today I want to talk to you about the choice we have as believers... to believe. If we want to be fruitful and free, we must become fully persuaded that God fulfills His Word. We've entered this fast with a purpose, expecting results. We are sacrificing something specific in an effort to draw closer to God. We are relying on Jesus for strength to see it through and help in our moments of weakness. We are trusting Holy Spirit, believing He will continue to transform us on this journey. The Father loves that we are spending time with Him, learning how to abide in Him, seeking His heart for ourselves and others. It is in this secret place of time spent with Him that He shares His thoughts and His heart with us. We seek Him and He responds. Our faith is growing. In recent services, the Father has challenged us to ask more of Him and receive more from Him. So, what is your need? Your desire? What is the cry of your heart? What are you surrendering to the Father to work out in His perfect timing?

I have witnessed the goodness of God again and again in my life. God healed me emotionally, opening the door for me to walk out progressive healing for a chronic illness that tormented me for 19 years. I have been delivered from a poverty mentality and experienced relationships restored from broken to beautiful. When my son was struck in the face with a baseball during batting practice, I persisted through fear and boldly declared the Word of God over him trusting in God's provision even as the doctors insisted this would be the most painful injury he would ever recover from and he would require reconstructive surgery. I laid my hands on my precious boy, believing God's Word, and witnessed the pain leave and the miraculous healing of 7 fractured facial bones. To the surprise of the doctors, he didn't require pain meds or surgery. Praise God! Time and again God has been faithful to provide when I trust Him.

What are you believing? Do you believe God will answer your prayer? I'm not asking if you believe God CAN answer your prayer, rather do you believe God WILL answer your prayer? You see, God is no respecter of

persons, if He did it for me, He will do it for you! In Mark 11, Jesus instructs "Have faith in God. For assuredly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, be removed and cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Jesus tells us to believe without doubting and we will receive. The dictionary defines doubt as to be uncertain; consider questionable or unlikely; to hesitate to believe; to fear; to distrust. We simply cannot believe God and doubt His will at the same time. Doubting causes us to elevate what we see and hear, the facts of a situation or circumstance, and our previous experiences above the very Word of God.

So how do we overcome this doubt? We must stand firmly, unwavering, on the Word of God. The scriptures are full of blessings, promises and examples of God's faithfulness. What scriptures are you standing on as you wait for your prayer to come to pass? I urge you to find scriptures that speak specifically to your prayer request. If you're not sure how to find them, ask! Then, meditate on these scriptures and declare them often. Faith comes by hearing the Word, over and over. Offer up praise and thanksgiving to God for this answered prayer. Why does this work? As we meditate on and declare the promises in scripture, the Word becomes deeply rooted in us, persuading us that God is good and He is faithful.

Jeremiah 1:12 tells us that God watches over His Word to perform it. Isaiah 55:11 says His Word does not return to Him void. David declares in Psalm 138:2 For You God have magnified Your Word above all Your Name. 2 Timothy 2:13 promises that He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. The Lord God is eternally faithful to His Word, which means He is eternally faithful to us, because we are in Christ. Therefore, we can stand firmly on His Word in faith with hope and great expectation.

Finally, Church, I hear the Lord whispering, how long will we believe? Our answer, forever Lord God. No matter what our eyes see, our ears hear, what we have previously experienced, or how long it takes, the Word of our God

shall stand forever. Father God we will become fully persuaded. We are believers, it's what we do! Amen!