

Sermon Summary – August 4, 2024



The Bible Doesn't Say That "Follow your heart and believe in yourself and you can do anything."

This phrase is the plot to many modern Disney movies. And Coach Ted Lasso, of the streaming series *Ted Lasso*, motivated his teams by the one word – believe. This philosophy prevails in modern American culture but is it biblical?

Believe

Optimism and confidence are beneficial characteristics. Little gets done in life or in church with the attitude, "We (I) can't." Furthermore, belief, faith and trust are extremely important in Christianity. *However, the key is what you believe and in whom you believe.* Everyone has worth because everyone is created in the image of God. Everyone should celebrate the gifts and talents they have and celebrate the God who gave them. God showed how much He values us by demonstrating His love for us in Jesus' death on the cross. At the same time, we must believe what is also true of us. We are sinners who are selfish and need to repent and turn to God. Our focus should be God, not ourselves. The Bible teaches us to believe in God and deny ourselves in surrender to God (Luke 9:23)

Follow

Following our heart is the worst thing we can do (Jer 17:9). Our emotions, thoughts, and desires are selfish, unless they are transformed by God. Instead of following our hearts we are commanded to follow God. Through His word we know what to do and not do. Through the Holy Spirit's leading we also receive direction. Instead of coming up with our own plan for our life and our great dream on our own, we should follow God and He will reveal where we should go. For example, David didn't follow his heart to the throne of Israel. He followed God along the path laid out for him (Psalm 119:35).

Anything

We aren't meant to do just anything; we're meant to fulfill the purpose God has for our lives. Furthermore, it isn't in our strength we accomplish anything, it's in God's power, for nothing is impossible for God (Luke 1:37; Matt 19:26). What does Philippians 4:13 teach? Paul writes, "I am able to do all things through him {Christ} who strengthens me." In this passage, Paul thanks the Philippians for their financial gift. He wanted them to know how thankful he was and at the same time make it clear that he could continue to live and minister without the gift as well. He states that he had learned to be content whether he has a lot or whether he has a little. How was he able to endure any lack and enjoy any surplus? Through the strength of God. Paul had the power and presence of Christ. The primary reference to "all things" is hardships and prosperity. A close second could be what God had called Paul to be and do. But it doesn't mean a list of our desires and goals. We can do whatever God has called us to do, not whatever we decide to do.