

A Jenga Faith – 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Consider how many times you have heard these words: **"The grass withers & the flowers fall, but the Word of our God abides forever!" – Isaiah 40:8**

Have you ever considered the gravity of that statement? God's Word abides, it lasts, it endures, it never changes, it's reliable, **we can build our life upon it!**

Believing this is why someone would sing the lyric - *"I don't want to miss one word You speak, because everything You say is life to me..."*

"Scripture Alone" is one of the defining pillars of the Reformed faith! We proclaim that everything we believe (our faith), & everything we do (how we live) is built upon the solid foundation of the Word of God!

God speaks! *Are we listening?* His voice is heard & discerned through a relationship with Him! *So what does our relationship with God look like?*

God is a good communicator! He passes all the tests of good communication, and what He has said has stood the test of time!

The question is *"What do we do with what He has already clearly said?"*

God speaks through the Bible! **"All Scripture is breathed out by God & profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work!" - 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

So when we say/sing that we believe... *Do we believe it because that's what we want to believe or because God has already declared it to be?*

Much of what God has declared in His Word is under attack today! There are 3 sworn enemies of God and His Word – the devil, the world & our flesh!

What will we choose to stand upon, where will we turn, what will we choose to fight to preserve & leave behind for others to follow?

"How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word. What more can He say than to you He has said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?" – Jesus Firm Foundation

2 Timothy 4:1-5 – Preach the Word, be ready, reprove, rebuke, exhort, be patient, teach, sober-minded, endure suffering, evangelize, fulfill your ministry!

There will be those who will oppose God's Word, but it's God they are rejecting!

The Apostle's Creed is a great summary of what we believe as Christians based upon what God has said through the Bible. What if we were to start rejecting its truth claims and choose not to believe...

- **"In God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth" – Genesis 1:1**
- **"In Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord" – John 3:16**
- In the incarnation, that Jesus *"was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilot, was crucified, dead, & buried."*
- **In Jesus' reconciling & intercessory work**, that *"He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the grave. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty."*
- Jesus' second coming, that *"From there (Heaven) He will come (back to earth) to judge the living and the dead."* - **Matthew 25:31-46**
- **"I believe in the Holy Spirit" - Galatians 4:6**
- **"The Holy catholic/universal/Christian church" - Revelation 5:9**
- **"The communion of saints" - 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 20-27**
- **"The forgiveness of sins" - 1 John 2:2**
- **"The resurrection of the body" - 1 Corinthians 15:42-46**
- **"And the life everlasting" - John 17:3, 1 Corinthians 2:9**

This creed is a great summary of the Biblical building blocks of the Christian faith, but this just scratches the surface of all that God has spoken to us in His Word and all He wants us not only to believe but to live our lives in response to.

What about what God has said about repentance, forgiveness, marriage, human sexuality, our bodies, the sanctity of life, gossip, money, love???

A faith built upon the foundation of God's Word is solid, secure & intact! **Faith with God's Word being removed is a faith left weak, insecure & full of holes!**

It won't take long for a faith, that has removed much of what God has spoken in the Bible, to fall apart! It will only take a slight wind of opposition, a small tremor of hardship, a little spark of doubt and it will crumble!

If your faith is built upon a Jenga set of God's Word, what does it look like? How solid, secure and intact would it be? **Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 7:24-27**

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