

HARD SAYINGS

In the Word of God, you will encounter some sayings of God that are hard to understand or accept. What will you do with them?

KEY POINTS

1. Ecclesiastes 11:5 talks about what we know and what we don't know: "As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything" (NIV). We don't know God's business or how He does it.
 2. We like to feel like we know stuff – and we do. We've discovered many facts. We know physics, chemistry, trigonometry, and how to blow a trombone. And we've used our knowledge to create amazing things.
 3. But this verse in Ecclesiastes says we don't know much about the works of God who makes everything. *Compared to God, our minds are not so big at all.*
 4. Proverbs 6:6 gives advice to those who want to succeed but aren't doing anything about it: "Go to the ant thou sluggard." Proverbs 30:24-25 points out things that "are little on the earth, but...are exceedingly wise". First mention goes to: *ants*.
 5. Ants walk over top of your cell phone to get to the food at a picnic. They know what's food and what's not. But how much can an ant really know or comprehend about your phone and the world of technology related to it? Or about other human stuff? How would you explain to an ant something like humour or irony, or algorithms, or spoiler alerts?
 6. If you tried explaining all that – and if the ant could read – it might quote you Psalm 139:6: "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it."
 7. Here's the thing. As the ant is to us and our human stuff, so are we to God. We may feel like we're pretty smart and in fact we are. But when it comes to understanding God, we are just ants.
 8. In John 6:57-69, Jesus tried to explain something: "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸...He who eats this bread will live forever." ...⁶⁰Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"
- ❖ We are disciples of Jesus. Like the original disciples, we will come up against hard sayings – things that are hard to understand, believe, accept, or to live with.
 - ❖ What do you do when you're not sure you understand what God is saying? Or don't see how it could be right?

KEY SCRIPTURES: Ecclesiastes 11:5; Proverbs 6:6, 30:24-25; John 6:57-69; Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 13:31; Psalm 119:89 (33-37, 66-68, 128)

- ❖ The Bible may say something about you, or about life, or about God – which you find hard to accept. For example, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)
- ❖ Can I accept that this is true?
- ❖ Could God have designed these sayings and experiences to nudge you, or even push you, into a confrontation with the word of God?
- ❖ When hard situations or circumstances happen, we usually start asking God "why?" And often, God points us to some basic facts and teachings of His word. Sometimes we grapple with hard experiences, hard sayings. We might wish that some of the things in God's word were different.
- ❖ But God is not going to change what He said. "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Ps. 119:89). "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My word will not pass away" (Mark 13:31).
- ❖ Will we ignore the hard sayings, pretend they're not there? Fight/resist/reject them? That won't actually change anything.
- ❖ Instead, we can explore, accept and learn to trust the word of God.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. How do you typically respond to scripture you find difficult to understand/accept based on your knowledge, understanding and experiences?
2. Read the following scriptures from Psalm 119 that encourage and support us in exploring, learning, accepting and trusting the words of God. Reflect on them and discuss them together.
 - verses 33-37 – Is this your desire?
 - verses 66-68 – Are we ready to learn, by any means necessary?
 - verse 128 – Here's a commitment we can choose to make, and stick to, as we encounter hard sayings. Will you declare it? "...I esteem all Thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way."

PRAYER TIME

Lord, help me to accept and trust Your word, even when its sayings are hard. Amen.

Start-up: As you feel comfortable sharing, what might be the hardest thing for you to hear, or have to tell someone (personal, medical, spiritual ...)?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: U.P.C.I. Ontario District departments,
leaders, participants
**Prayer Meetings: Monday and Wednesday
@10:00 a.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89831915909>

Phone access: 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to
www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use
donate@faithsanctuary.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Age 60+ Meeting

(Saints 60 years old and above meet with Pastor Adrian)

When: After service **today**

Where: Upper chapel

CELEBRATION MASS CHOIR

In-person rehearsals for the Faith Sanctuary Family of Churches Celebration Mass Choir will take place from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 17, 24 and 31. For further information, please contact Sis. Heather McKenzie at 416-244-4898 or mail@faithsanctuary.com

LIFE GROUPS

Please see the ushers to join a group.

We meet at different times during the week across the GTA.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

In-person Sunday School class will take place every Sunday, with the exception of 5th Sundays. We look forward to continuing to discover what the Word of God says and means.

Contact: Rev. Chris Simpson

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.

(Rebroadcast @ 3:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JULY 17, 2022


Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2022 ~ The 3 "R's" ~ 2022

Restore • Refresh • Renew

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*“For assuredly, I say to you,
till heaven and earth pass
away, one jot or one tittle will
by no means pass from the law
till all is fulfilled.”
Matthew 5:18 NKJV*

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