



Introduction:

As you begin to “do” what God says from His Word (Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:4), as you obey God in the daily decisions of your life, be sure adversity will be present and persist (2 Corinthians 10:3-6). Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 10:5 that there is knowledge that is contrary to God’s wisdom and a mindset that opposes the authority of God, and both must be brought into submission to the “*obedience of Christ.*” As a believer, you must be diligent to renew your knowledge and change your mindset (Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:23). As a follower of Christ, you must be dedicated and committed to serving Him. If you want to see God do a great work in your life, you will have to prove it by faith, and real faith is action. Hebrews 11:6 reveals that God does not, nor will He ever be, moved by a heart full of unbelief. To overcome opposition (i.e. unbelief and doubt), you must mingle God’s Word with faith (Hebrews 4:2), without which you will never see a great work of Christ.

The Focus:

- **Every believer must allow Christ to do a mighty work in and through them. How?**
 - **Overcoming the voice of opposition.**
 - **Fearlessly standing on Christ’s promises.**

On Sunday, Pastor Dan taught his second sermon from John 11:38-44. Last week, he mentioned that for God to do great work, we must first do the commandments of Christ as revealed to Paul (1 Corinthians 14:37). And as we obey God’s Word and do the commandments, it is certain that opposition will come. When God is at work in the lives of His people, be sure there are those that would oppose His work. Sometimes opposition will come from people outside your sphere of influence (Nehemiah 2:19-20), your friends (John 11:8; 39), your family (Job 2:9), those influenced by religion (John 11:46-53), and even within your own heart (2 Timothy 2:13). But in the power of Christ you can overcome all opposition (Philippians 4:13). Therefore, we must walk with God by faith, and that faith should be established in Christ in order to overcome the voice of opposition (Colossians 2:6-8).

Not only must we overcome the opposition by obedience and faith, we must faithfully and fearlessly stand upon the promises of Christ. None of us have spiritually arrived to where we have totally embraced and exercised the mind of Christ in everything we do. The truth is that we all have shortcomings in our life; we all lack in different areas of our lives. In our text, Lazarus lacked life; he was dead. And Christ, on the promise that the Father would hear Him, prayed openly before the people to the Father (John 11:41-42). Immediately following, Christ boldly uttered (vs. 43), “*Lazarus, come forth,*” thus providing him with life. Where or what are you lacking in your life (Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12-15; Ephesians 4:32)? Don’t be fearful of standing on Christ’s revealed truth (2 Timothy 1:7). Paul desired for followers of Christ to go to God in faith, defying the voices of opposition, praying in faith upon the truth of God’s Word (1 Timothy 2:8). In yielding to God’s power in you, you will find liberty and freedom in Christ

(John 8:36; 11:44; Galatians 5:1, 13). If you desire for God to do a great work in you and through you, you must do what His Word says, walk by faith in the face of opposition, and fearlessly stand on the truth of what His Word says.

Response to the Sermon:

Pastor Dan's focus this week was on adversity and boldness in the life of every believer. How are you doing in your walk with the surrounding opposition that you face every day? Be real. Be honest with yourself. What do you struggle with that is hindering you from you seeing Christ do a great work in your life? It is true that each of us must trust Christ on our own, but it will take you being a part of a unified group to grow in your faith and love (Ephesians 4:13-32). You need encouragement on a regular basis from other believers to follow God's Word, to face adversity, and to be courageous enough to stand on God's promises. Do you lack in one or more areas of your life? If yes, you need to allow God's Word to be in your thoughts daily (Colossians 3:16). Are you reading God's Word? Are you praying in faith, believing in God and His power to do a great work (James 1:6)?

Bible Study Thoughts & Questions:

God, in establishing Joshua to lead the nation of Israel in the place of Moses, said (Joshua 1:9), *"Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee..."* Joshua needed to be obedient to God's Word. If Joshua was going to face the enemies of Israel, removing them from the Promised Land, he would have to be yielded to God and His Word.

But what was Joshua called to do which would enable him to display such boldness and courage in the face of adversity (Joshua 1:7-8)?

According to Joshua 1:8, what leads a believer to doing what God's Word says? What is the result for every believer when they follow God's Word (Joshua 1:8; 1 Timothy 4:14-16)?

Application Questions:

Adversity and fear are present in this life. They are seen regularly along the course of this world, charted by Satan (Ephesians 2:2). There are many forms of opposition in this life promoting doubt and fear. Christ was faced with opposition (John 11:38-39). And if we will follow Christ in our lives daily, we too will face adversity (2 Timothy 3:12). What do people hear when others mention your walk with Christ (Romans 16:19)? Are you following God's Word?

Are you facing adversity with courage? Are you fearlessly standing upon the Word of God? If we are going to see Christ do a great work, we are going to need to be living out our faith boldly before others.

What is the “*obedience of Christ*” (Philippians 2:8)?

What did Paul say must be used if strongholds in your life are going to be removed and their grip released from controlling your life (2 Corinthians 10:4)?

If doubt in the believer displeases God, what pleases Him (Proverbs 11:20b; 12:22b; 15:8b; Colossians 1:3-6, 9-17)?

Prayer:

- Pray that your thoughts would be aligned with God’s thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).
- Pray that you would be rooted in God’s Word and established in it by faith (Colossians 2:6-7).
- Pray that you would desire to be in God’s Word daily (Colossians 3:16).
- Pray that you would display the same obedience that Christ displayed (Philippians 2:8; Colossians 3:5-10).