

## Spontaneous Faith is Not Beyond You

I always enjoyed visiting my sister's home church in upstate New York. The pastor at the time did a children's message every Sunday. As many churches do the children come forward and sit down on the steps leading up to the altar. In most church's children's message the pastor presents a faith lesson appropriate for their age level. That is not what happens at this church. Instead of a message prepared in advance the faith lesson is totally spontaneous. Here's how it works: Each Sunday one child brings to the altar area a bag that had been given to him or her the previous week. The child could put anything in the bag from their house and bring it to church. The child would keep the item a secret until the moment that the bag was opened by the pastor, at the time of the children's message. The pastor would do an impromptu children's message using whatever was in the bag as a prop. He had a knack of being able to develop a faith lesson from anything and often tied it into the theme for that particular Sunday. I never saw him flustered and not able to come up with a spontaneous message from the unique item in the bag. As you might expect, the congregation was very attentive, wondering what kind of challenging item would be presented. The children had fun with the opportunity to test their pastor. It became a game, but the pastor always came through.



Life is spontaneous, and certainly is not scripted. We are faced with real-life, real-time situations constantly. How we deal with those issues is based on the strength of our faith and understanding of God's Word. Our ability to handle those situations is not as difficult as you might expect. Most of us can name the majority of the 10 Commandments off the top of our head. We understand Jesus' teachings and can paraphrase hundreds of Bible verses just by hearing a few key words or phrases. We know many Bible stories. Church hymns often pop into our heads based on a key word we might hear. So, we are actually more prepared than we realize. But, we live in a world that often repels God's Word and wants to make its own decision of right and wrong. It can become a struggle to apply God's Word when surrounded by worldly views that differ vastly from biblical teachings. Deep down we know what is right. We just have to train ourselves to seek God's Will first and then stand up for what is right in the eyes of the Lord, especially if it differs from the world's expectations. Thankfully, God's Word is simple and straight forward. Life is not!

Living as a person of faith does require spontaneity. Life comes at us pretty fast. We face challenges every day. But, being spontaneous is just applying what we already know about God's direction for our lives. The pastor who could take any household object and create a faith lesson is merely applying God's Word in real life. He has trained his mind to see God in everything. That doesn't take a divinity school degree. We may not be able to quote scripture but we know what it means. Make an effort to see God in real life. You can do this! Nothing you are presented with is beyond God's desire to help you. It just takes the guts to stand up for what is right in the eyes of God as your natural instinct in life. What's in your bag of life? Whatever it is, God is with you as you apply His Word to your everyday life.

**The Bible Says:** *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).*

**Questions:** What is your thought process as you are presented with real-life, real-time challenges in your life? How do you determine your response to these challenges?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. Help us to be spontaneous in our application of Your Word for our life. Keep us grounded in the faith as we seek Your Will over the world's flawed will. Amen.

