

We Don't Make This Stuff Up

Our Own Insights and Revelations are Not Equal to God's

Have you ever played the game where everyone stands in a line? A sentence is whispered to the first person in line and they, in turn, whisper what they heard to the next person in line. Each person repeats what they think they heard all the way down the line until it reaches the last person. We all laugh when the last person says out loud what they thought they heard. There is often a big difference from the original message. That is because people in the line add their own perspective of the original message.



How much do you think the interpretation of the message would change if the original statement described something seemingly impossible? The temptation would be for the people to try and make it more believable by interpreting it to fit their vision of the possible. After all, we know what is humanly possible, so we change it to make it more believable. I recently saw an interesting quote about how we sometimes limit our understanding of God. Evelyn Underhill wrote, "If God were small enough to be understood, He wouldn't be big enough to be worshipped."

The Bible has some pretty fantastic stories. The creation of the world, the origin of man, the flood, Moses parting the Red Sea, David and Goliath, the feeding of the 5,000, the raising of Lazarus and the resurrection of Jesus are stories beyond the realm of human understanding.

"If we rely on human interpretation of God's Word we could be creating a God of our imagination," says Rev. Timothy Keller. Proverbs tells us *"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar (Proverbs 30:5-6).* A similar warning is communicated to us in the Book of Revelation: *I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll (Revelation 22:18-19).* In essence, Keller says these two passages remind us "not to consider one's own insights and revelations as equal to the Scripture." Trust the Bible as the genuine Word of God.

The Bible is full of stories about events so big that only God could orchestrate. That is why it is important to not restrict our understanding of God's power to that which an ordinary man could do. God's power is unlimited. Jesus performs miracles that humans can only marvel at. They prove that He is God and we are merely human. *Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26).* The Bible reveals God's unlimited power. What this means for us is that God will do all that He promises to do. We can trust with confidence that God will deliver on all His promises. ... *The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does (Psalm 145:13).*

My goal for this devotion is: (1) that people won't change God's Word to fit their needs and, (2) that we won't put limitations on God's power. God's power is documented in the Bible and has no limits. Because of that He is worthy of our worship. Hopefully, people in line will each read it for themselves so that everyone has the same understanding as the writers who were directly inspired by the Holy Spirit. The events of the Bible are spectacular, as is our God. After all, we can't make this up. Only God can.

Question: Do you regularly take time to read God's Word? Do you trust that God will deliver on His promises for you?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. You have provided us with your Word. We can be sure that with God all things are possible. We pray that we will take it at face value and not change it to meet our own situation. Amen.