

DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIBLE?

I am sure that each of you, as you begin to read this, are saying to yourselves “Yes” but is that always true? It is easy to have faith and talk of believing the Bible when everything is going along well or it is something you like to do. But sometimes when things are not great or it is something we don’t enjoy doing, we tend to forget what we have been told in the Bible. Let me illustrate what I am talking about.

1. In the book of Romans we are told “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28 NAS) Now when everything is going along just find it is easy to believe what that says. But how about when you see everything falling apart around you or maybe someone you love or even yourself is sick is it easy to look and see how the things that are happening are going to “work together for the good”? When our friends or our families refuse to listen to us about the gospel, how will such things work out for our good? I will never forget the year I spent in Korea away from my family. It was a difficult year for all of us to say the least. I once got a letter from Carolin telling me that Christie had been run over by a car with no explanation. Now I was about 14 hours by airplane away from home with no way to get there. I thought ok you will get a letter from Frieda explaining what happened. You haven’t been called home for an emergency. I waited for a couple days and got nothing from Frieda so I went to the Commanding Officer and requested an extra phone call home to find out what happened and he granted it. (We got one free phone call per month for 5 minutes.) Well when I got through to home I found out that Christie had slipped on some ice in a parking lot at the school and a car had run over the front part of her foot and done no serious damage. Frieda had mailed me a letter the same day that Carolin had but I did not receive it for a week after Carolin’s. During that entire year I kept Romans 8:28 at the front of my mind. I believe that the experience did work out for my good as I believe that I came home with a completely different outlook on family. As for Frieda and the kids, well you will have to ask them.

2. In the book of Hebrews we are told that “For though by this time you ought to be teachers”. (Heb 5:12 NAS) I found that no matter how long we have been Christians we find all kinds of explanations as to why this isn’t true for us individually. We just do not believe what it says do we. If we spent as much time and effort in teaching as we do in hunting for reasons why we do not have to we would all be so busy that we would not have time to think of all the reasons why we can’t. One of the best ways to learn your Bible is to teach it, “you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, do you steal?” (Romans 2:21 NAS) The first class I remember teaching was in Germany many, many years ago. It was a class of junior high students. I thought that because I was teaching these children instead of the adults I was going to have it easy. Boy was I wrong! Give me a class of adults any day. Those kids kept me on my toes each and every class period. Since that time there have been very few times when I have not been teaching a class somewhere. I have learned more from those experiences than I ever would have just sitting in a class.

The next time you are going through your Bible and you run across something that may be difficult for you don’t just pass it by. Read it, see what it says, and then to borrow a phrase from a major company, “**Just Do It**”. Let us spend more time believing what the Bible says and less time explaining why something it says, can not mean what it says. The fruit of believing is **DOING**. If you believe it, you will do it. It is that simple.

E.S.

P.S. You ask why people won’t be baptized? The answer is simple they don’t believe the Bible! Do you?