

Francis Chan "JUST DO IT"
Passion 2012

<http://youtu.be/CHgQb0tjE30>

I was preaching in a conference in Korea, 12 million people were watching. Their hands were raised, singing a song of prayer that God would speak through my lips. Would you guys sing a Korean song for me? Just kidding.

Do you want to hear from God? Let's pray.

(Prayer)

Let me first say that you need to read the Bible for yourself. It's great to have other people speaking to you and you hear the Word of God.

Read it over and over and over again. You get so many messages all day long. So many lies.

You have to be consumed by this Word. What would Jesus have done? What would the New Testament believers have done?

Do you genuinely believe that the resurrection really happened?. A dead man came to life? I can talk to that Jesus right now.

James wrote if we have faith, but doubt, He can't answer us. 1 Peter teaches if you mistreat your wife, God won't listen. Isaiah 58-If I don't care about the poor, He would not listen to me.

As we were getting ready to help in the inner city of San Francisco, they needed 10,000 portions of meat for the homeless revival meeting. Before anyone could provide a solution, the mission got a call from Trader Joe's. The manager said, "Our freezer just broke down. All of our meat will ruin. Could you use it?" This giant U-Haul trailer brought chicken, pork chops, steak. I walked with the homeless ladies, telling them about what God has done.

One lady said, "Who are you? Are you one of those Pentecostals?" "No, I said. I read the Bible for myself. And He listens to me." She said, "I can't read that without one of our leaders explaining it to me."

You need to know that you can read it for yourself and God listens.

How do you know if I am telling the truth?

1 Kings 13: 7-24

The king said to the man of God, “Come home with me for a meal, and I will give you a gift.”

⁸ But the man of God answered the king, “Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water here. ⁹ For I was commanded by the word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.’” ¹⁰ So he took another road and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel.

¹¹ Now there was a certain old prophet living in Bethel, whose sons came and told him all that the man of God had done there that day. They also told their father what he had said to the king. ¹² Their father asked them, “Which way did he go?” And his sons showed him which road the man of God from Judah had taken. ¹³ So he said to his sons, “Saddle the donkey for me.” And when they had saddled the donkey for him, he mounted it ¹⁴ and rode after the man of God. He found him sitting under an oak tree and asked, “Are you the man of God who came from Judah?”

“I am,” he replied.

¹⁵ So the prophet said to him, “Come home with me and eat.”

¹⁶ The man of God said, “I cannot turn back and go with you, nor can I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. ¹⁷ I have been told by the word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water there or return by the way you came.’”

¹⁸ The old prophet answered, “I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the LORD: ‘Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.’” (But he was lying to him.) ¹⁹ So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house.

²⁰ While they were sitting at the table, the word of the LORD came to the old prophet who had brought him back. ²¹ He cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, “This is what the LORD says: ‘You have defied the word of the LORD and have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you. ²² You came back and ate bread and drank water in the place where he told you not to eat or drink. Therefore your body will not be buried in the tomb of your ancestors.’”

²³ When the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the prophet who had brought him back saddled his donkey for him. ²⁴ As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was left lying on the road, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it.

The prophet lied to him.

A lion met him on the road and killed him.

That sucks.

Here's a man of God...but another prophet came along.

People will lie to you throughout your lifetime. Even those who sit in church services will lie to you. You can't have the discernment you need to differentiate truth from lies without knowing the Bible.

I was fixing some bricks in my front yard when a group of Jehovah's witnesses came by. I said, "Can I just tell you some amazing things God is doing in my life?" "Can I tell you just a couple of ways He's answering my prayers lately?"

The lady said, "You know, God doesn't listen to everyone." I repeated the teaching about answered prayer. "You're right. James teaches that if we doubt, God doesn't listen. Later in James, if I ask with selfish motives, God won't hear. In Isaiah 58, even if I fast and pray, if I don't care about the poor, God is not listening to me."

Jesus was listened to out of his reverence for God.

In 1 Kings 22:6-23, Jehoshaphat asked 400 prophets if God wanted him to go into battle.

So the king of Israel brought together the prophets—about four hundred men—and asked them, "Shall I go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?"

"Go," they answered, "for the Lord will give it into the king's hand."

⁷ But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no longer a prophet of the LORD here whom we can inquire of?"

⁸ The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, "There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah."

"The king should not say such a thing," Jehoshaphat replied.

⁹ So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, "Bring Micaiah son of Imlah at once."

¹⁰ Dressed in their royal robes, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them. ¹¹ Now Zedekiah son of Kenaanah had made

iron horns and he declared, “This is what the LORD says: ‘With these you will gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.’”

¹² All the other prophets were prophesying the same thing. “Attack Ramoth Gilead and be victorious,” they said, “for the LORD will give it into the king’s hand.”

¹³ The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, “Look, the other prophets without exception are predicting success for the king. Let your word agree with theirs, and speak favorably.”

¹⁴ But Micaiah said, “As surely as the LORD lives, I can tell him only what the LORD tells me.”

¹⁵ When he arrived, the king asked him, “Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or not?”

“Attack and be victorious,” he answered, “for the LORD will give it into the king’s hand.”

¹⁶ The king said to him, “How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?”

¹⁷ Then Micaiah answered, “I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the LORD said, ‘These people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.’”

¹⁸ The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Didn’t I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?”

¹⁹ Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the multitudes of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left. ²⁰ And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?’

“One suggested this, and another that. ²¹ Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, ‘I will entice him.’

²² “‘By what means?’ the LORD asked.

“‘I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said.

“‘You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’

²³ “*So now the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The LORD has decreed disaster for you.*”

Paul also talked about the importance of using discernment when interpreting God's truth: 2 Timothy 4:1-10

“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ *For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.* ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

If you have a desire in your heart, you can justify just about anything.

Get a Christian book that will twist Scripture to say what we want.

My daughter wanted to get her ice cream late at night. Ice cream would make her hyper. She wouldn't sleep well and she would wake up tired in the morning. But she argued, “If I eat the ice cream, I'll go to sleep happy and wake up happy.”

So often that happens in the church. I get so concerned about it. I just wrote a book about hell. Like when God warned the people in Noah's day...Problems with believing the literal flood, but everyone doubts. Egyptian would ask why God would kill the first born of every child. In Sodom, they mocked God sending fire from heaven.

Jesus' returning is literal. God says there is a literal lake of fire and the unbeliever will go there. What did Satan say, “Did God really say...”

I am a simple guy. I read this and this sounds like what he's done. Noah's ark painted on the nursery wall. Do you see the people drowning on the wall.

I was speaking at a conference and this guy came up to me and said, “I could do that.” I could read passages of Scripture and say go do it.” I was gathering with my buddies, Luke 14:15-23 about giving a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, blind and lame. I always invite my rich relatives who can reciprocate. “When you give a feast, invite the poor...”

Can we do it? I think it might be a state of the heart. I look at a poor guy and say, “I'm going to give you steak in my heart.” We got great chefs, presents, my wife took them shopping. Take pictures of them and frame them. Fifty people invited. Have you ever bought a present for someone and can't wait to give it. Spoil them the way God spoils me. It hit me. I thought, “God, is this how you feel about me?” Francis is going to enjoy the banquet in heaven. I can't wait to have him come.

There were people who didn't show up. So I went to get them out of the streets. Told them about God's banquet in heaven for them.

Do you take God literally? Rose from the dead? All authority given to him in heaven and earth. We have got to go make disciples. Changing people's hearts, answer to human trafficking. We must stop and set them free.

1 Samuel 14: 6-7, the Philistine army battled the Jews.

Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

⁷"Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul." In verse 22, when all the men of Israel heard that the Philistines were fleeing, they followed hard in battle.

Two guys are unafraid. Saul follows. God's doing something. Let's go. Another group follows.

I don't want to be in that last group.

Take God at His Word.

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