Defending Your Faith

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

Have you ever been asked a question about what you believe in the bible or why you believe what you do? Have you ever passed up on a calling to witness to someone because you weren’t confident that you would have all the answers to their questions? How about the common scenario where you’ve heard a preacher preach on a topic you’ve never heard of before or heard a preacher preach something different than that in which you have heard and then decided that because the preacher said it, it must be true. I have experienced all of these situations and it is with great relief that I can say, through great conviction from God, extensive bible study, and fervent prayers, that I am in a much better place to be able to defend my faith, not only to myself, but to others who may cross my path.

Years ago, I was working in a position that required me to be a trainer for new employees who were hired into our department. I enjoyed this job because it allowed me to become close to some of the people who I trained and it also gave me the opportunity to witness to whoever I was training at the time. I was, and still am, on fire for God and everyone I worked with at the time knew that conversations about God and the bible were given when it came to me. I felt confident that I knew exactly what to say when I was witnessing to someone and I felt that I had the knowledge and help from God that I needed to be able to lead someone to Christ, if the conversation came to that.

Well, one day a guy named Robert was hired into our department and he was immediately paired with me for training. Robert and I got along great and became friends quickly. We were both believers and agreed on how we should conduct ourselves on a daily basis, which made for easy days of working together. Throughout our days of training, I learned that he was of a different faith and though he believed in many of the same things I believed, he also believed many things that were not biblical. We would discuss certain subjects in depth and oftentimes I would find that he knew exactly what he believed and why he believed it while I sat there knowing what I believed but was unable to back up why I believed those things. In no time at all, I became convicted to be able to back up what I believed with a reason on why I believed it. Initially, I wanted to be able to defend/argue my faith to Robert but during the process of studying my bible and seeking council with my pastor to learn why I believed what I did, it became clear that I didn’t need to argue about my faith at all. I simply needed to be able to state the facts that were given to me in God’s word and that alone would prepare me to be ready to defend my faith.

One morning, several weeks after Robert and I were paired for training, we were in the office and I was talking to another guy about salvation and how once you were saved, you couldn’t lose that salvation. Robert quickly spoke up and said that he had bible that proved I was wrong. Considering that this was after I had studied, prayed and sought council over some of the topics that he and I had previously discussed, I said “Okay, grab your bible. I’ve got mine right here and we will take a look at it.” After a long pause he said he wanted to get his ducks in a row and then we would discuss it. Needless to say, that day never came. He didn’t want to let the bible prove who was right, he only wanted to argue his beliefs.

As 1 Peter 3:15 says, we must be ready. We must study our bible and be ready to give answers on our faith. “Because that’s what my pastor says” or “that’s what my grandpa believed” is not an answer. We must be able to provide scriptural answers for the questions that may be asked of us and be confident that God’s word will prevail. If you haven’t already, as a Christian, we will all face questions about our faith at some point in our lives. Whether we are witnessing to the lost, facing people of other religions or denominations, or simply discussing our beliefs with our children, questions will be asked. These questions may deal with anything from eternal security, speaking in tongues, drinking, tattoos, abortions, etc. but no matter the subject, we must be ready.

When you are knowledgeable in what you believe and why you believe it, as long as your proof comes from the bible, no one can make you doubt it. There are false teachers and preachers abundant in our world today who prey on the weak in faith. They make things sound smart and pretty, even sensible, at times. Before you know it, they can make you doubt your beliefs and can even take over churches with false doctrine. If we don’t know our bible, we are in danger. We must make sure that we are teaching our children to know their bible, as well. It is of the utmost importance that they know what they believe and why they believe it so that they will be strong in their faith and will be able to defend their faith against false doctrine. What will become of our children and the future that they represent if we don’t do our part in ensuring they are grounded in their faith? Hosea 4:6 says “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

Getting ready to be ready is not hard. Thankfully, every answer to questions about our faith can be found in the bible and it is great to know it will always be an open book test. Getting ready will take time and commitment but with little effort we can gain the knowledge we need to defend our faith, grow in our relationship with God, and through it all, be better witnesses for His kingdom.