

Scarecrow faith

Is your faith made up like a scarecrow because of what others have put in you or do you have the faith that scares people away? Or are you the one that help protects the crop from the nasty villains. In these cases we need to look and dig deeper into the value and input we give to other and what they contribute against our own input and living testimony.

Let me ask you, what would you tell a person that have not heard the gospel or are offended by our faith, what will make them think 1, that this could not be possible and 2, I need to know more or 3, I've been there but want to get back?

This week has been such a joy. We send the kids back to school and welcomed a lot of people back from holiday. Heard that there will be more new additions to families this year as I believe DSTV has gone through the roof with their prices and people are cancelling it... just joking. I'm proud of our married couples who enjoy the privileges of marriage. But I believe the highlight of the weekend was our project at home. Please bear with me as I will take the long road to get to the punch line for today.

So Anienke had this bright plan to start a small business, but also needed mom and dad to invest in this but with family business all the profit will go to the kids... you get me. Her little business is to buy a few quails and start selling the eggs. Obviously dad will need to help with some place for the little quails, mom will ensure dad builds the best pintress pen for the new additions, kids will be excited to help for the first 2 min and then at the end will say... we did a good job, hey dad. But to my surprise they all helped and we set up a beautiful little house for the quails. As our new year's saying is... we made it lekker/nice for them.

PICTURE

Through the building process I continuously had the scarecrow faith title in the back of my mind. Not that I wanted to put a scarecrow inside the pen but just as unity we can change to many things. The planning and execution of our project ensured safety and happiness for the little quails. At first they were afraid but as we introduced some new items and the right stuff they accepted us and I believe in their small little minds trust us to keep them save.

A scarecrow is planted in the middle of crops or gardens to scare of unwanted predators and things that pose a threat. So are we as Christians planted in the world to help prevent the enemy from the destroying the harvest. And believe me, the enemy is continuously busy.

On 15 December members of our church and Freddie from swakopmund, took on the task of praying for our roads for the December holiday. We started from Windhoek at 04:30 and Freddie from his side the same time and we met up in Karibib. Freddie felt that the Lord laid on his heart specifically to pray for this section and so we did. The Lord gave us amazing word and promises and I want to share is with you.

I received statistics from FSRSC for the period 25 Nov till 3 Jan

- Crashes declined by 14%
- Injuries decline by 18 %
- Fatalities declined by 29%

This compared to last year:

- Crashes – 446 vs 385
- Injuries – 813 vs 665
- Fatalities – 104 vs 74

Please tell me know if you still believe there is no God or this is by chance. I tell you today that God heard our hearts and heard our prayers. This not to say that there will be know accidents. God will allow this so that people will be broken enough for Him to become a reality. When we have the dust of the world on us God can't reach us, so He allows us to fall hard on the ground in order for the dust to be removed so that we can see Him. Brothers and sisters, God is alive.

John 17, and for a moment you didn't think we will get to scripture...

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶ "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

What an intimate prayer by Jesus and not just for Him but for us as well. This is His final prayer before He is crucified and Jesus gives an account of His earthly mission to the Father who sent Him. His prayer is divided in 3 sections.

1. For Himself
2. For His disciples
3. For the later believers... you and me.

During the week I woke up the one morning and still a bit asleep I went to my study and started reading. During this time the coffee machine gave a big puff and that was my queue that the coffee is ready. I finished reading and took a stroll to the kitchen, poured the coffee and went to my bedroom to pray. As I sat back in bed I saw this picture of Jesus in His last moment of prayer kneeling down on the ground and praying. I saw Him kneel between the rocks and not really finding comfort where he knelt and the terrain didn't allow for that. My heart skipped a beat as I witnessed this from the comfort of my own bed... but here is the key. I shared it at intercession and as Ilanda rightly said... this is not a guilt thing to say that in the physical you have to get up and go outside and kneel down in the thorns or on a rock but rather to engage and re-evaluate our own spiritual comfort. Are we really engaging with Christ... and that goes for me as well. Our prayer to Jesus needs to reflect our account of what we do and still need to do. We need to allow God through the Son to sanctify us and use us to bring the truth of who He is to the world.

In verse 10 the NLT says "all who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory." God's glory is the revelation of His character and presence. The lives of the disciples reveal his character and he is present to the world through them. Does your life reveal Jesus' character and presence?

What do we see in this prayer then...

God the Father gave the Son

1. Authority to give eternal life
 - a. ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.
2. People out of this world
 - a. ⁶ I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word
3. Work to accomplish
 - a. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.
4. Words
 - a. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.
5. His name and His Glory
 - a. ¹¹ Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
 - b. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

The Son gives believers

1. Eternal life
 - a. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed
2. The Father's word
 - a. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
3. Manifestation of the Father's name
 - a. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."
4. Glory
 - a. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

The son asks the Father to

1. Glorify Him
 - a. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
2. Keep believers in the Father's name
 - a. ¹¹ Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.
3. Sanctify believers in the truth
 - a. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
 - b. **Important to note that this is a lifelong process. There is the relational and moral component. You need to believe differently, think differently and live differently**
4. Make believers one
 - a. ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Jesus' followers and the world

1. We are sent into the world
 - a. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world
2. We are in the world
 - a. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you
3. But we are not from the world
 - a. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world
4. The world hates us
 - a. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world
5. But our unity with each other and union with God may cause the world to believe the Father sent the Son
 - a. ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

And to end off. Let's get practical.

Scarecrow Faith

- We need to equip ourselves with the word that God gave us. And become one with Jesus as he is one with the father
- We need to impart that word on those that God reveal to us so that we can glorify God and become one with him
- we need to show people through our unity with each other and union with God that Jesus was sent by the father

We are planted in the world, though we are not from the world to keep believers from the evil one and allow Jesus to sanctify believers in the truth

Matthew 22:29 (ESV) says *But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God"*

To truly know God we must know His power, for He is powerful. – André Kruger

To truly be an effective scarecrow we must allow the Spirit of God to fill us and empower us so that we can help gather the harvest before the enemy gets to them.