

96 – God always reveals WHAT He’s going to do; sometimes WHY; and rarely HOW.

God always tells you WHAT He’s going to do (assuming you’re paying attention, right? Assuming you’re listening); but He never tells you HOW He’s going to do it. He skips over the details **we** most want to know, being the closet control freaks we are. And, I believe, that’s why faith is so important to Him as well as to us; and I believe, that may even be the reason why faith is tested by God, with the goal of our maturity; and tried by the adversary with the goal of our disqualification.

Throughout the scriptures, God has always revealed WHAT he was going to do. He’s done nothing in secret; the scriptures are full of WHAT God will do or is doing, and WHY He’s doing it – that is the nature of prophecy. We looked at this a few weeks ago, when I shared Barbara’s revelation from God, “I’m showing you what you need to see, so that when I do what I do, you’ll know why I did what I did.”

The scriptures are NOT full HOW God intends to accomplish His purpose. Actually, it may be there after all, but the language is such that discerning His method escapes me, for one.

There are a few exceptions I can think of: Noah was told how to build the ark. The detail Moses was given about the tabernacle, and that David was given to design the temple is staggering

Toward the end of Mark 8, after Peter made his bold declaration that Jesus is the Christ, when others were saying that He was John the Baptist, or Elijah, or one of the other prophets, Jesus began to tell the boys that He would die, and he made a quick reference to the HOW. Look at it:

Mark 8:30-34

30 And He warns them, that they may be telling no one about Him.

It’s as if Jesus was saying, “Look, we’re in enough trouble with these religious guys, and I still have some work to do, so how ‘bout we just keep this between us, OK?”

31 And He begins to teach them that the Son of Mankind must be suffering much and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed and after three days rise.

32 And with boldness spoke He the word. And, taking Him **[Jesus]** to him, Peter begins to rebuke Him.

33 Now Jesus, being turned about and perceiving His disciples, rebukes Peter and is saying, "Go behind Me, satan! for you are not disposed to that which is of God but that which is of men."

34 And, calling the throng to Him, together with His disciples, [So, He's been speaking only to the 12 so far; and now He's letting "the throng" hear the rest.]

He said to them, "If anyone is wanting to come after Me, let him renounce himself and pick up his cross and follow Me.

Did you catch the semi-veiled reference to the means of His death, when Jesus said, "*pick up his cross and follow me.*" The only way Jesus could have known He would be crucified is by His knowledge of the scriptures (David, for one, wrote in the Psalms about crucifixion centuries before it was even known as a means of execution), or by direct revelation from the Father.

The point is that Jesus knew the HOW, in addition to knowing the WHAT and the WHY. It's my own conviction that He learned the whole sequence of events at the mount of transfiguration, and from then on, He spoke more openly – not only to his 12 disciples – about suffering, dying, and being raised.

A quick aside here: When you read the account of the transfiguration, notice that Jesus didn't even make it all the way down the mountain before a leper ran up to Him begging to be healed. He had no time to bask in the afterglow of the transfiguration before He was plunged, as Barbara says, "back into the demon-possessed valley." My point here is to encourage us, when we have a mountaintop experience with the Lord, basking in His presence, don't be discouraged when you're faced minutes or hours later with the demons – or the demon-possessed people – in the valley! You're following in His footsteps, except yours don't lead to literal crucifixion, AMEN?!

Jesus prophesied the means of Peter's death, but I doubt that Peter or anyone else at that time understood His reference. We can, and other readers of the New Testament scriptures could, because we see it in hindsight.

Jeremiah was shown so much what would happen to the Israel, Judah, and to Jerusalem, including HOW events would take place. He even lived to see most of his prophesy come true.

The Apostle Paul was shown HOW the Lord will return:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

16 for the Lord Himself will be descending from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the Chief Messenger, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall be rising first.

17 Thereupon we, the living who are surviving, shall at the same time be snatched

away together with them in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus shall we always be together with the Lord.

The HOW is in **verse 16**:

with a shout of command, with the voice of the Chief Messenger, and with the trumpet of God

Not a lot of detail, I grant, but it's all I could think of to illustrate the point that God, through His word – and therefore in each of our lives – gives volumes of information about His WHAT and His WHY, but He leaves most of the HOW alone. What is the purpose, I wondered, as I pondered this concept?

Hebrews 11:

1 Now faith is an assumption of what is being expected, a conviction concerning matters which are not being observed;

...

6 Now apart from faith it is impossible to be well pleasing, for he who is coming to God must believe that He is, and is becoming a Rewarder of those who are seeking Him out.

Luke 18:8

at the coming of the Son of Mankind, will He be finding the faith on the earth?"

This whole investigation started because I've been aware, really, for over three years solid, that in my life, the Lord, through His Holy Spirit, is clear in His direction of what to do; less so in why; and is nearly silent as to how. It appears to be his chosen method of training. Now, if that's not His way of training you, God bless you – but, if your relationship to Him is anything like mine, this might help. Don't think you're thick-headed, although I've been accused rightly of that sometimes.

Mark 10:14-16

"Let the little children be coming to Me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of God.

15 Verily, I am saying to you, Whosoever should not be receiving the kingdom of God as a little child, may under no circumstances be entering into it."

16 And, clasping them in His arms, He, in benediction, is placing His hands on them.

Little kids don't get all hung up on the How; indeed, they hardly get hung up much of anything. Their curiosity is insatiable, certainly, but they don't start out as control freaks. They learn that skill later on. In her book, Barbara tells this story about her nephew:

One night, as I was taking my eight year-old nephew home from a restaurant in his hometown, I asked, “Adam, how do we get to your house from here?”

He answered very innocently, “I don’t know, Aunt Barbara. My mom or dad always drives.”

“How simple,” I thought. All little Adam does is sit in the car and know, without a shadow of a doubt, that his parents will take him where he needs to go, with no concern on his part. That’s their job. Why don’t we do that with our heavenly Father, Who made this whole world and keeps it going?

It’s like God is the dad driving the truck and we are the kids who get to ride in the back and eat our popsicles; but sometimes, we try to crawl through the window, take over, and drive. However, since ***GOD IS GOD AND WE ARE NOT***, He alone knows what it takes to make us usable—to make us “keepers.”

Here’s the “pull quote from the story that illustrates my point:

“How simple,” All little Adam does is sit in the car and know, without a shadow of a doubt, that his parents will take him where he needs to go, with no concern on his part. That’s their job. Why don’t we do that with our heavenly Father, Who made this whole world and keeps it going?

Now re-work that quote with you and me in the place of little Adam:

“How simple,” All we have to do is sit in the car and know, without a shadow of a doubt, that our Father in Heaven will take us where we need to go – by the impartation and leading of His holy Spirit – with no concern on our part. That’s His job. After all, He made this whole world and keeps it going.

Doesn’t that sound a lot like **Luke 12**:

22 Do not worry about the soul, what you may be eating, nor yet about your body, what you should be putting on,

The only time you’ll see a child worry is when there’s trouble in the home. That means mom and dad are out of sync with God; they are unstable in some way; hence, the child may worry; but it is NOT by any means their normal disposition.

23 for the soul is more than nourishment and the body than apparel.

24 Consider the ravens, that they are not sowing, neither are they reaping, for which there is no storeroom nor yet barn, and God is nurturing them. Of how much more consequence are you than the flying creatures!

25 Now who of you by worrying is able to add on to his stature one cubit?

26 If, then, you are not even able for the least, why are you worrying about the rest?

Remember **Psalm 46:10** – “Relax [chill out] and know that I am God.”

27 "Consider the anemones, how they are growing. They are not toiling, neither are they spinning; yet I am saying to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed as one of these.

28 Now if God is thus garbing the grass in the field, which is today and tomorrow is cast into the stove, how much rather you, **scant of faith?** [You who trust too little]

29 "And do not you be seeking what you may be eating and what you may be drinking, and be not in **suspense**.

Look at all that is contained in the word “suspense”: to put upon the deep or to be tossed about on the deep by winds and waves; to raise up fortifications; metaphorically, lift up one's soul, raise his spirits; to buoy up with hope; inflate with pride; be elated; take on airs, be puffed up with pride; to cause one to waver or fluctuate in the mind; to agitate or harass with cares; finally, to make anxious. “DON”T GO THERE with all these concerns that the Father totally has covered!” Jesus said!

30 For, for all these the nations of the world are seeking. Now your Father is aware that you need these.

31 However, be seeking the kingdom of God, and all these things will be added to you.

32 "Do not fear, little flocklet, for it delights your Father to give you the kingdom.

I was convicted today, as I prepared for our study, that I was doing the same thing Jesus said not to do, and I was in mid “scant of faith” – I can’t tell you that I know why we’re on this subject tonight. I can’t even say that I have some massive revelation to share; but as I stopped for a long drink of water in mid-preparation, I thought, “I don’t know why I’m here, and I don’t know what you’re up to in all this, Father, but I’m trusting that someone needs this... I don’t have to be concerned about any of it – I’m only accountable to show up (get in the car like Barba’s little nephew, Adam); pay attention, share the truth I see, and give You the outcome, ‘cause, clearly, it isn’t in my hands.

I wrote a quick blog post today, on ScriptureDoc.com, as a result of looking at Oswald Chambers’ devotional for today in his book, My Utmost for His Highest.

Seeking Him in everything opens us to His blessing (and vice-versa) -- It was just too long to TWEET.

"We should get in the habit of continually seeking His counsel on everything, instead of making our own commonsense decisions & then asking Him to bless them."

There's a whole lot more of this quote, but the point is to replace common sense with reliance on God for EVERYTHING. Yes, every part of our lives, and perhaps especially the parts in which we think we know it all already and need no help.

Does that mean you can't be trusted to buy a loaf of bread on your own, or decide what you'll eat for lunch? "**May it not becoming to that,**" the Apostle Paul would say. This is not about God trusting us...yet, but about us trusting God in every area of our lives. It's all well and good to seek and trust God in the big issues, but once we seek and trust Him in the minutiae, faithfully and obediently heeding what we hear from His Spirit through our spirits, then He'll be able to trust us because we'll think like Him.

"Yet we have the mind of Christ." ([1 Corinthians 2:16](#))

If we have it, let's use it! So, how did it work for Jesus, since He is, after all, the "pattern"?

"...from Myself I am doing nothing, but, according as My Father teaches Me, these things I am speaking. And He Who sends Me is with Me. He does not leave Me alone, for what is pleasing to Him am I doing always." ([John 8:28-29](#))

If Jesus didn't do -- or say -- anything out of Himself, but relied on the Father for everything, maybe the principle is reliable for us. All we have to do is...DO IT!

Walking with the Lord, As Barbara says, "is on a need-to-know basis." God will reveal what we need to know when we need to know it – not necessarily when we want to know it. And we're right back to trusting God for everything. Every detail of life really is in His hands.

Proverbs 3: Lean not unto your own understanding

Let's read it together. Follow along in your own bible, but I went into the CLV for this: Listen to how this reads...