

Work Will Win When Wishing Won't

By David Burruss

While coaching my son's basketball team one Saturday, I noticed a kid's t-shirt that caught my attention. It was a bright orange shirt, and, on the back, it stated *"Work Will Win When Wishing Won't"*.

I thought about that statement on and off the rest of the day and thought it would be a good topic for discussion.

There is a big difference between working and wishing! We tend to try to wish our problems away:

- We wish we had better marriages.
- We wish we spent more time with our children.
- We wish we had more time read the Bible more.
- We wish we were different.
- We wish our lives were better.
- We wish for better jobs.
- We wish we didn't have to work.
- We wish for a better house or car.
- We wish we had more money.
- We wish we were in better shape or could lose weight.

We wish, we wish, we wish!!! We wish a lot and why not? Wishing is easy. Wishing doesn't require any commitment, effort, or time.

We could wish all day for this or that, but in order for wishing to be productive; it should always be followed by work. We cannot just wish!

There are several examples in the Bible of people who didn't waste time just wishing - they did the work.

- Noah didn't wish an ark into existence. Genesis 6:22 says, "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did." (Think about all the work he had to do.)
- David didn't wish for Goliath to fall. I Samuel 17:49 says, "Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth."
- Moses didn't wish his people were free from Egypt. Exodus 12:50-51 says, "thus all the children of Israel did; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did. And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies."
- Peter didn't wish he could walk on water. Matthew 14:29-30 says, "And Peter answered Him and said, 'Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.' So, He said, 'Come.' And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus."
- God didn't wish there was a way we could be saved. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (He didn't just wish, but gave us the greatest gift the world has ever seen)

We need to stop wishing for that person you love to obey the gospel and pick up the phone or visit them and talk to them and study the Bible with them. We need to quit complaining about your marriage/friendships/family etc. and make it right, stop being stubborn and take that first step and offer that apology. We need to stop wishing that our numbers will improve and start praying and get to work.

Great things will happen when God's people stop just wishing and start working!

When you look at yourself, are you a wisher or a worker? Are you someone that does or just wishes about it? Have you been sitting around wishing that someone else will do the work? Are you struggling with sin, have hate in your heart or unable to forgive someone? If you're struggling with this or anything else that you need help with, please contact us or reach out to your local congregation for help.