

Authentic (The Real Deal)

Last week I introduced a new series. “Authentic”

The dictionary defines Authentic as:

- Not false or copied; genuine; real
- Having an origin supported by unquestionable evidence; authenticated; verified:
- Representing one’s true nature or beliefs; true to oneself or to the person identified:

Last week we talked about the “counterfeit god”

- Satan tries to deceive you by presenting counterfeit goods disguised as blessings

We talked about Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8)

- Through smoke and mirrors and a good show he had convinced the people he was the real power of God

I mentioned last week that you should read on down, and you will see the authentic move of God taking place...

Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 **Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.**

When this happened it exposed Simon as the fake that he was

- So, what did he do?

Acts 8:18-19

18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

- He realized that once people experienced “The Real Deal”
- They would no longer settle for just a show...

That’s what I’m talking about today:

- The Real Deal
- The Authentic move of God

- The manifestation of the authentic power of God
- That's what the world is looking for in the church today...

Is that what we are giving them?

- If not, why?
- I hope to show you that answer today...

First I must say, I had what I determine to be a divine appointment with someone this week.

- A conversation that God used to shape this message
- A conversation that woke something in my Spirit

The Bible tells us of a father who brought his son to the disciples of Jesus, hoping he could be healed...(Have a demon cast out...)

- He wasn't looking for a show
- He was looking for Authentic...the Real Deal
- But let's see what happened...

Mark 9:14-18

14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. 15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. 16 And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?"

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "**Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.**" 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. **So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.**"

Mark 9:19-21

19 He answered him and said, "**O faithless generation,** how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, "**How long has this been happening to him?**" **And he said, "From childhood.**"

If you notice, the first thing that Jesus addressed was an **issue of Faith**

- We'll come back to that

The second question was:

- How long has he been this way?
- His whole life....

Can you imagine a parent who has watched their child suffer like this for their entire life?

- Now they are standing before Jesus!!!
- **What would you say?**

Mark 9:22

And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. **But if You can do anything**, have compassion on us and help us.”

- He said “**If**”

Now look, I’m sure they had seen doctors and specialist

- Tried medications available at the time
- Gone to the priest
- Gone to the sorcerers
- **Now he went to those who presented themselves as Christians...**

And through all of the trial and failure, discourages and losing hope...

When standing in the authentic presence of God, the best he had was:

- **If you can do anything...**
- He might as well have said, “I doubt it’s going to work, but go ahead and give it a try”!!

Now let’s look at how Jesus replied:

Mark 9:23

Jesus said to him, “**If you can believe**, all things are possible to him who believes.”

- **Jesus answered back with , “If”**
- If you believe...If you really believe...If you have faith...
- If these “disciples” had really believed...If they had faith...
- All things are possible... if you believe...
- If you have faith...

Mark 9:23

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “**Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!**”

Do you see what happened here?

- Jesus challenged this man on his faith
- And his knee jerk reaction was the proud response
- **I believe** (how dare You challenge my faith, who do You think You are)

Then he was convicted:

- I say I have faith...
- But is it the real deal? Is it authentic faith
- Which is more important, my pride, my status, or getting my son healed
- It would mean confessing that his faith truly wasn't where he said it was
- **But he humbled himself and said "help my unbelief"** (Give me faith)

Then we see the undeniable, authentic power of God, manifest and the demon was cast out and the boy was healed...

That's what the church should be demonstrating today...

That's why Jesus gave us the power to do so...

That's what the world needs and wants to see from His church....

But just like in this example, people come to the church, to His disciples...

- We say we have the power of God within us...
- Yet there is little demonstration of it...

Jesus told the disciples they needed to get into prayer and fasting...

They needed to get serious about their faith...

What about you today?

- **Where's your faith**
- Faith to receive, faith to demonstrate
- What have you been believing for that hasn't happened yet?
- Are you willing to lay down your pride and confess, "Jesus, help my unbelief"
- Are you willing to pray and fast
- Are you willing to do that so others can see that authentic power of God move through you?

Altar Call:

Closing Prayer