

## “EVIDENCE-BASED LIFE”

John 1: 19-24 – Even John was questioned for lack of evidence!

The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask John who he was. <sup>20</sup> He confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup> They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.”

<sup>22</sup> Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

<sup>23</sup> **John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet**, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”

<sup>24</sup> Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup> **questioned him**, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

**REF: ISAIAH 40:3 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.”**

**The Pharisees took offence at John as they questioned his-person.  
Yet this is of him Jesus said “<sup>28</sup> among those born of women there is not  
a greater prophet than John the Baptist” (Luke 7:28)**

**Brethren evidence-based life is required of every Christian.**

When evidence is lacking, people will question our Christianity.

The Jewish leaders asked John, “Are you the Messiah?” Are you Elijah?”

“Are you the Prophet?”

**They were looking for evidence.**

Even when John had to go and borrow the word of the prophet Isaiah, the Jewish leaders did not accept it. **They still <sup>25</sup> questioned him**, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

**We must demonstrate an evidence-based life.**

Elijah lived an evidence-based life; The prophets lived evidenced based life  
Jesus (Messiah) lived evidence-based life

**Unless, a believer lives an evidence based life, the believer’s person will  
be questioned.**

**GOD IS READY TO USE US IF WE MAKE OURSELVES AVAILABLE.**

In Luke 7:19, even John questioned Jesus, and Jesus used His evidence-based life to defend Himself:

<sup>19</sup> John, calling two of his disciples to *him*, sent *them* to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

<sup>20</sup> When the men had come to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ ” <sup>21</sup> And that very hour Jesus cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

<sup>22</sup> **Jesus answered and said to them**, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the* blind see, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. <sup>23</sup> **And blessed is *he* who is not offended because of Me.**”

**Lack of evidence-based life gives others, including spirits, opportunity to take offence at us.**

## Acts 19:13-16

<sup>13</sup> Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” <sup>14</sup> Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. <sup>15</sup> **One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”** <sup>16</sup> Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

Brethren, as Christians need to live an evidence-based life.

Jesus did several miracles.

As he prepared us he said to us:

John 14:12-14

**12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

**The works of Jesus are clear:** “*the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them, unbelievers are saved.*”

In Matthew 10:6,

as Jesus sent out the twelve, He said to them:

**6** "go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. **7** And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' **8** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.

Brethren, this is evidence-based life, which is key to acclaimed position in Christ.

**You may say, well I am not going to cast demons or do any crazy thing.**

**I am just going to be in the congregation and not the pulpit or field.**

One thing, however, is clear, we cannot control the direction that the wind will blow and storms are no respecter of anyone.

When they blow you must pray for God to defend you.

**Ephesians 6:12** says our fight is not against flesh and blood but against principalities, the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

This means that for our prayers to even be effective, it must distort/disturb the kingdom of darkness.

**James 5:26** says “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” Fervent prayers will move the storm.

But if you are unknown (no evidence), they will question your person/authority.

**The power of evidence-based live:**

**Exodus 34:**<sup>29</sup> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup> But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. <sup>32</sup> Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

**When we live evidenced-based life, God bestows power & grace on us.**

## **2 Kings 1:10**

**9..**The captain went up to Elijah, who was sitting on top of a hill, and said to him, “Man of God, the king declares, ‘Come down!’”

Elijah answered the captain, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" **Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men.**

**Food for thought: Are you a prophet? Are you Elijah? Jesus I know, Paul I know but who are you?**

**Let's go and live EVIDENCE-BASED LIFE**

**God bless you!**