

## Impossible

We would not need God if we were always trying to do what is humanly possible. God is in the impossible business.

I entered the ministry over a quarter of a century ago because I believed that with God nothing is impossible. Nothing has happened to change my mind, for I have seen God do it again and again.

Of course, there are many days when we insist on our own way. When we operate in the church according to human standards, we will get human results.

When we step back so that God is in charge, the impossible happens. In fact, the only time it does happen is when we are in a place where we cannot actually establish control of the situation.

My favorite example of impossible is when the people of Israel were standing at the Red Sea, and the Egyptian army was fast on their heels. By worldly standards they faced certain destruction. But when God moved the waves back and made it possible for them to walk across on dry land, the impossible became possible.

Even the arrival of Jesus on earth was impossible if people had tried to do it. Jesus the redeemer was born of a virgin. God could have sent him to earth at the head of a mighty army of angels, but he chose to do it in a way that only he could accomplish. In fact, the angel says to Mary, "the holy spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you...for with God nothing is impossible." ~Luke 1:35 and 37

Ergo, Jesus the savior born of a virgin.

By worldly standards, the tiny movement which became known as Christianity should have never made it out of first century Israel. The religious authorities were against them. The present government put the leader Jesus to death. But he rose from the grave, and the power of God and the persecution of the movement spread it all across the world, to the place where we read these words.

The only time the impossible does not happen in the church is when people think they are God and assume his position. As soon as this happens, human thinking or desires or results come into play, and the situation is limited to something the world can or cannot accomplish.

We begin to expect ordinary results because we plan for them and can hope for nothing more. God is in the impossible business, and when we do not stretch far enough for that to happen, he moves on to the place that is ready for it.

I am never surprised when this happens, for people have been trained to let God take over only in cases of emergency or when we cannot handle it. What God wants is for us to be in

constant contact with him, to let him do the thing which is happening, because he has all power, knowledge, and wisdom, and there are no limits.

How many pastors out there have resigned themselves to the human way of doing things because the church could not conceive of impossible happenings? And how many church members have been disappointed when their pastor does not believe that God can do the impossible? Incredible, but true.

Shortsightedness, pride, and stubbornness for no reason are sure symptoms of a pastor or church which will never achieve anything great because we are well in charge, leaving no room for God.

I am glad that God has put me in places of ministry where the impossible happened just when it was needed. I have seen God work great things in people who were able to give charge to him rather than themselves. Forward vision, humility, and flexibility are the key factors then, and God smiles when we trust him for spectacular results.

We humans are natured to always try to hedge our bets. Like Adam and Eve who had everything they needed and walked with God every day, we tend to listen to the evil one and try the way of the snake of Eden. We seek to become God, and lose the very thing we are trying to attain.

We take our kids to places the world calls us, and somehow expect them to turn out ok. We spend time everywhere but where we can be inspired by God and learn his word, and wonder why we are not growing spiritually. We make room for a little of church and a lot of the world, when we have not realized we have it backwards.

Jesus said it is hard for us to not let things of this world drive us. We are too tied to earthly things rather than spiritual. He said, "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

As soon as we start thinking that the eye of the needle has to be bigger than that of a literal needle, we are in danger of missing the point. Never forget, dear reader, that with God nothing, absolutely nothing, is impossible!