

Video - The Calling (for video go to skitguys.com and download "The Calling")

Real Disciples, Real Transformation
Authentic Followers of Jesus
Faith Holds On

Key Text: John 8:31-32 NIV

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Hold On to the Word
Know the Truth
Truth Brings Transformation - Real Change

Video - You Say

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqpNGYbcy3U>

Faith Holds On to the Truth
When It Doesn't Feel True
When It Doesn't Look True

Finding Our Standing Before God
Psalms 32:1-6

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Our Journey of Faith Begins
Psalms 32:7-9

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

- I Don't Know Anything About This Journey of Faith
 - How to pray
 - The Bible
- You have a Personal Instructor
- Follow Willingly not by force
- Those controlled by force lack understanding

Gain Wisdom From the Ant
Proverbs 4:6-11

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

- Stores and Gathers on it's Own
- Just a Little Folding of the Hands to Rest
- Spiritual slumber brings spiritual poverty and scarcity
- Need to Wake Up and Use Our Spiritual Muscles

Nice God

Romans 2:3-4 The Message

You didn't think, did you, that just by pointing your finger at others you would distract God from seeing all your misdoings and from coming down on you hard? Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change.

Hearing the Message and Sharing It

Romans 10:14-17

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Faith Makes a Difference

Hebrews 4:1-2

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed.

Two Living Examples of Holding On And Letting Go

I. Those Who Let Go

Numbers 13:21-33, Deut.

- Spies focused on the size of the problem
 - Caleb tried to stir up faith
 - Ten gave an evil report
 - Let go of who God was and who they were
 - Let fear rob them of their faith in God
- Deuteronomy 1:25-32

II. One Who Held On

1 Samuel 17:32-51

- Experienced God's help in killing a lion and a bear
- Held on to his faith God that would come through again
- Had to rely on the Abilities God gave him
- Tried to get David to look at his weaknesses
- David's confidence was in the Lord and faith that God could use him
- The giant was killed and so was fear
- Held on to who God was and who he was in God