

Disillusionment

Sometimes the strongest of the
people of God become disillusioned
with the church!

Elijah - challenged prophets of Baal

1Ki 18:25-26 Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." (26) So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

Elijah - overcame prophets of Baal 1Ki 18:30-39 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. ... (33) He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood." ... (35) The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. (36) At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

(37) Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." (38) Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. (39) When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD--he is God! The LORD--he is God!"

WHAT A VICTORY!

Elijah - killed prophets of Baal 1

Ki 18:40 Then Elijah commanded them, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!" They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.

THE ENEMIES OF GOD WERE DESTROYED!

Elijah - went off upset at thought he was the only righteous one!

1Ki 19:9-10 There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (10) He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

1Ki 19:18 Yet I reserve seven
thousand in Israel--all whose knees
have not bowed down to Baal and
whose mouths have not kissed
him."

Elijah needed more faith in God!

Jonah - Told to go preach and he was
disillusioned to start with!

Jon 1:1-3 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: (2) "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." (3) But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

Jonah - told again to go preach again

Jon 3:1-2 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: (2) "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Jon 3:5-6 The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. (6) When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.

Jonah - upset because Ninevah repented – he was successful!

Jon 4:1 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.

Jon 4:6-8 Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. (7) But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. (8) When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live.

You just can't please some
preachers (people).

No matter how things are going,
you just can't make them happy.

They see everything as wrong when
God is moving forward.

Three churches in the Fresno area not involved in human innovations. Member who attended all three and came back to the first. Not a one that didn't have problems. He finally gave up and just quit the church!

There is not a church in this world that doesn't have problems.

doctrinal error Antioch

Act 15:1 Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."

denominationalism at Corinth

1Co 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

... One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." (13) Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Corinth had a wealth of problems.
immorality

1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife.

lawsuits

1Co 6:1 If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people?

Not a church in this world that doesn't have problems – Corinth had a bunch.

divorce and remarriage

1Co 7:2 But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.

idol worship

1Co 8:1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.

Not a church in this world that doesn't have problems – Corinth had a bunch.

preacher's pay

1Co 9:6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?

spiritual gifts

1Co 12:1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

Corinth was a mess, as bad as any I've heard of.

doctrine resurrection

1Co 15:12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1Co 15:29 Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?

Moving on we find problems in the church in Thessalonica

afflictions

1Th 3:3-4 so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. (4) For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.

fornication 1Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

Thessalonica even had those who thought the resurrection had already come and they had missed it!

1Th 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

What is God's advice

Php 2:12-13 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; (13) for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

JUST DO YOUR JOB FOR THE LORD!

Don't give up and quit

Luk 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; (32) but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

What did God tell the Corinthians?

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

DON'T BE DISCOURAGED!

Just as Jesus told His disciples

Luk 10:10-11 "But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, (11) 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'

The kingdom is now here.

Col 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Have you been added?

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.