

THREE DEFAULT SETTINGS THAT ALWAYS LEAD TO BLESSING

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13).

You know when we've heard something so many times, like this verse, we can become so familiar with it that it can lose its impact upon our hearts. But my hope today is that it would dawn upon our spirits afresh.

First, let's talk about default settings.

Default Setting definition: a setting automatically given to a program or device; someone's normal behaviour and reactions

www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/default-setting

Imagine for a moment if your internal default settings were **FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE**? What difference would that make to your life and to those around you?

I am persuaded that such automatic heart responses would lead to greater blessing, for ourselves and others.

Yet, we are tempted to react and respond in ways contrary to that. I know from personal experience. So, let's dive in and look at each one.

FAITH.

How important is faith?

The Bible says God's people LIVE by faith. *The just shall live by faith* (Romans 1:17; Gal. 3:16). 2 Cor. 5:17 says we walk by faith not by sight, and Heb. 11:6, *without faith it is impossible to please God*. And right through the Bible we see God's displeasure with unbelief/disbelief (a refusal to trust God at His Word) and His reward for faith.

Joshua and Caleb. When Moses was about to lead the Children of Israel into the promised land, he sent 12 scouts to spy out the land *which God had sworn to give them* (Numbers 13:1-2). Upon their return they told of a land flowing with milk and honey. But 10 of the scouts spread a bad report. (Numbers 13:26-33). Only Joshua and Caleb gave a good report. They tried to silence the unbelievers, but to no avail. And the results were devastating. A whole generation missed out on receiving what God had promised.

The problem was that the 10 scouts had the wrong default setting – unbelief! They refused to trust that God would fulfill His promise. They chose to walk by sight, not by faith! But Joshua and Caleb had the right default setting. It says of Caleb that he had a different spirit (Numbers 14:24).

You know, we are tempted at times to slip into unbelief – not trusting God and His Word. (examples). **But we can set our default setting at faith!** We can choose to rewire our brains and condition our hearts to believe and trust God and His Word.

Joshua and Caleb hung onto God's Word, even when it seemed like nothing was happening.

Be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises (Heb 6:12). We like the faith bit but not the patience bit. Those two waited another 40 years before they entered into the land promised by God. Imagine that? But their default setting was faith.

Abraham. Faced with the impossible, .. *did not waver through unbelief.....being fully persuaded that God was able to do what He had promised (Romans 4:20a, 21).* Read v19 – v21.

HOPE

Abraham was faced with what seemed a hopeless situation. *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be. (Romans 4:18)*

Christians are not hopeless, they are hope-full! Pr Gregg Manego said recently, "our troubles are with us, but so is Jesus!" He is our HOPE! *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Saviour and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, (1 Timothy 1:1).* Read 1 Peter 1:3; Romans 15:13; Ephesians 2:12; Hebrews 6:19.

In every situation we can default to hope. But I know how hard that can be when everything within you seems to despair! Yet we have a HELPER, who helps us in our weaknesses (Romans 8:26). As we lean into the Lord, hope springs up within us. His abiding presence, power, and promise are with us always.

LOVE

What would our relationships look like if our default setting was LOVE?

Love each other deeply from the heart (1 Peter 1:22).

Once again, I know how hard this can be. There are plenty of opportunities not to love, especially when people don't love us. Yet God calls us to love as He loves, as Jesus loves us, to set our default setting to LOVE!

So, there it is, these default settings always lead to blessing!