

November 25, 2018

Keep the Faith; Ignore the Critics

Matthew 9:27-34, 12:22-32; Romans 8:24-28, 31.

VISION: We are a functional family of God, where Jesus is Lord and people grow.

MISSION: Every layperson is called to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20); every layperson is called to be missional.

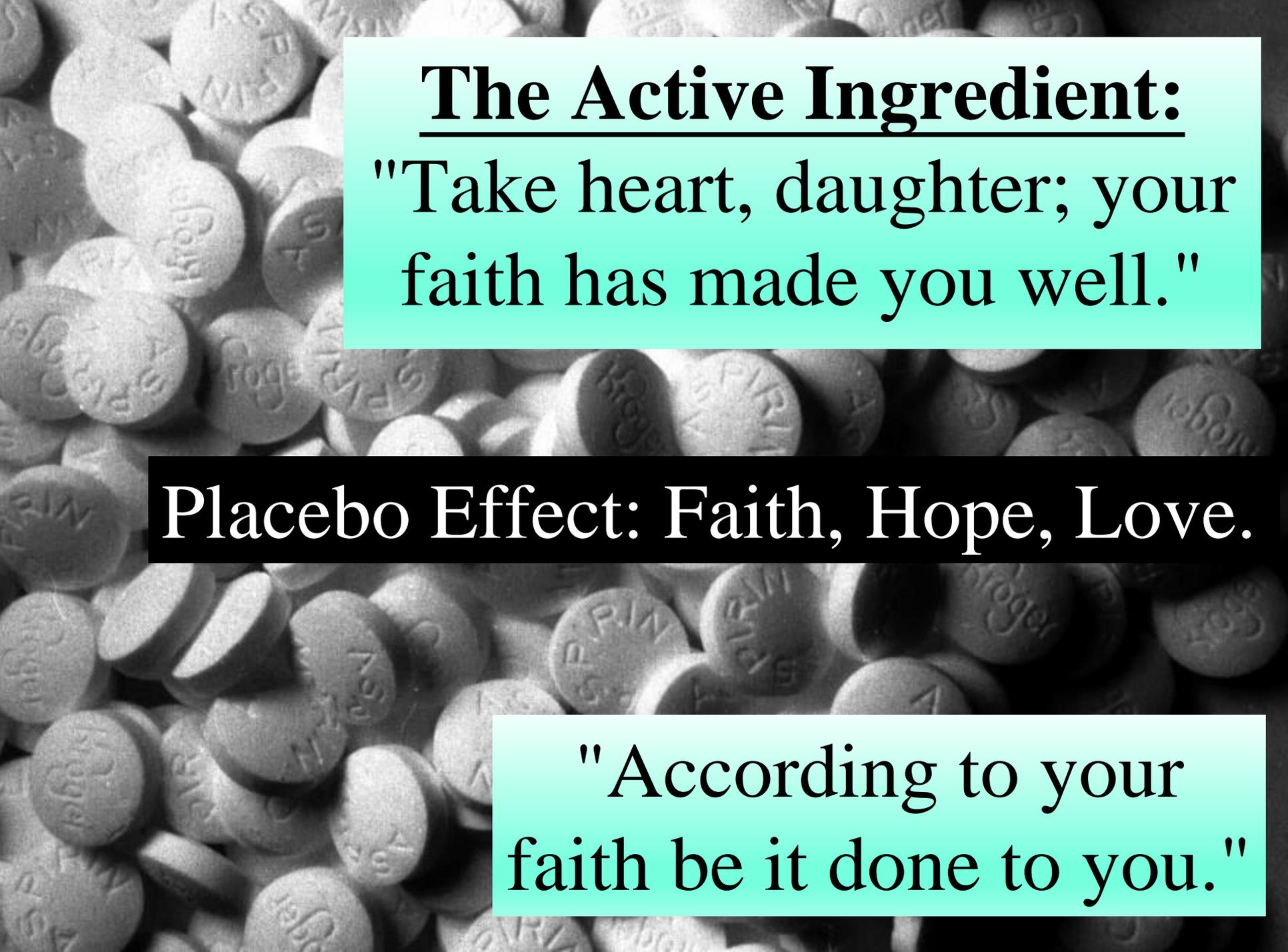
(¶126 of the 2016 Book of Discipline)

There are two kinds of people in this world: people who need to become disciples and disciples who need to become disciple makers.



Peace be with you.
AS THE FATHER HAS
SENT ME,
—EVEN SO I AM—
SENDING YOU.

John 20:21, ESV



The Active Ingredient:

"Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well."

Placebo Effect: Faith, Hope, Love.

"According to your faith be it done to you."

A photograph of two young girls playing on a green lawn. One girl, wearing a pink shirt and blue shorts, is kneeling and holding a small black lizard. The other girl, wearing a blue tank top and a white skirt, is standing and looking at the lizard. In the background, there is a grey fire hydrant with green caps and a small puddle of water. The scene is outdoors during the day.

Our faith rests on our perspective,
resting on truth as a foundation.

God is at
work in
our world.

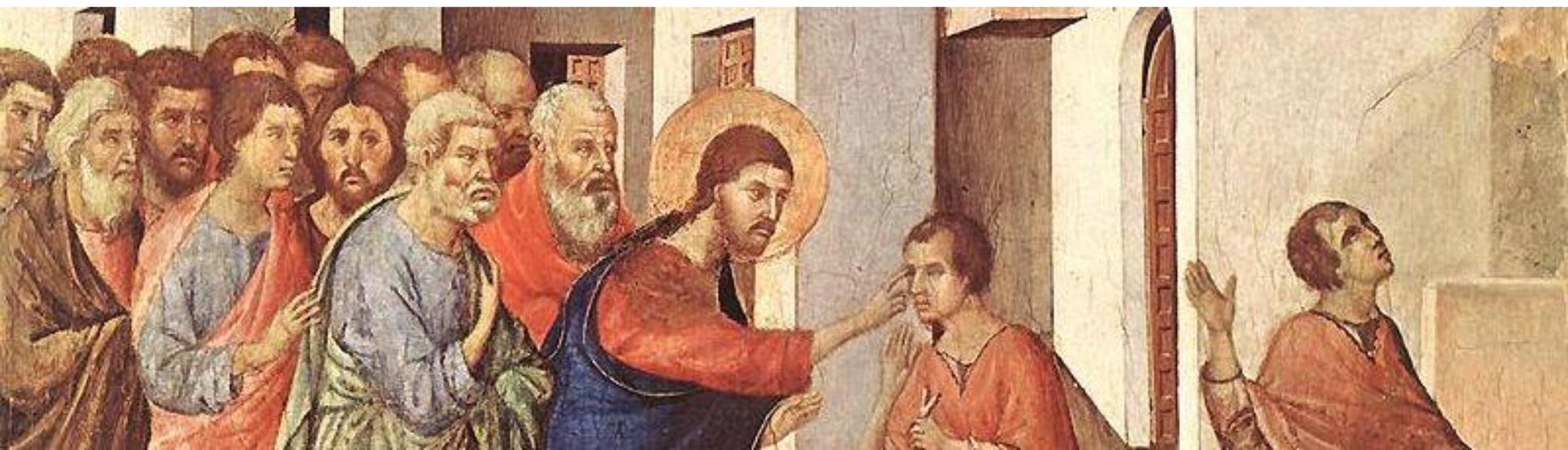
Evil often works by attacking our perspective.

Matthew 9:27 And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." 28 When he entered the house, the blind men came to him;

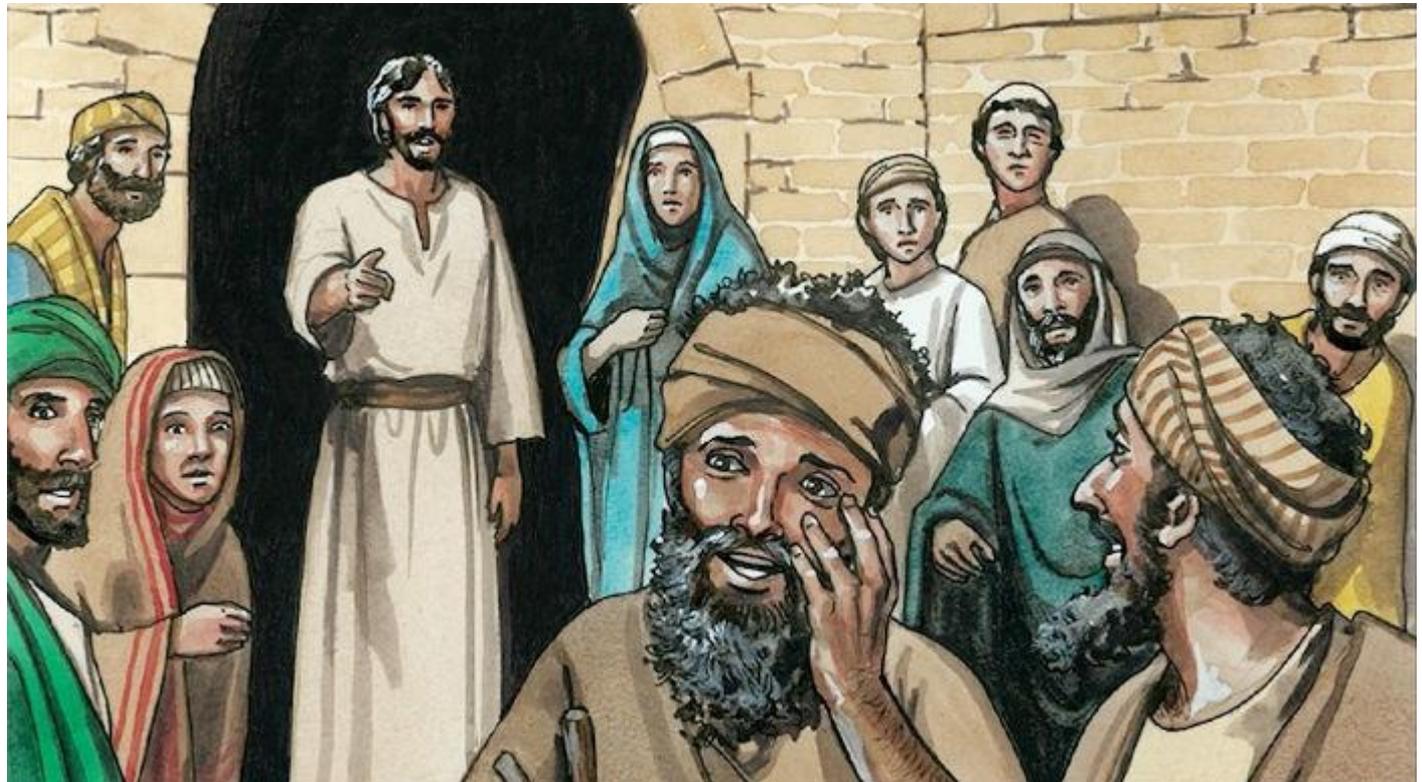


and *Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."* 29 Then he touched their eyes, saying, *"According to your faith be it done to you."*

Placebo Effect: Faith, Hope, Love.



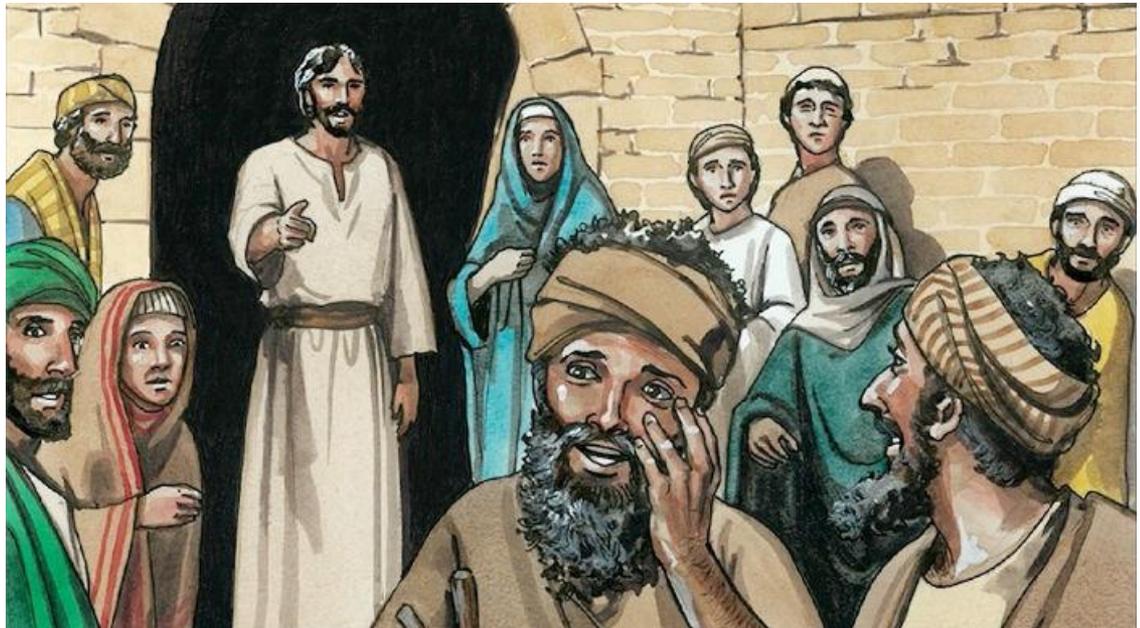
30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." 31 But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.



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32 As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. 33 And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel."

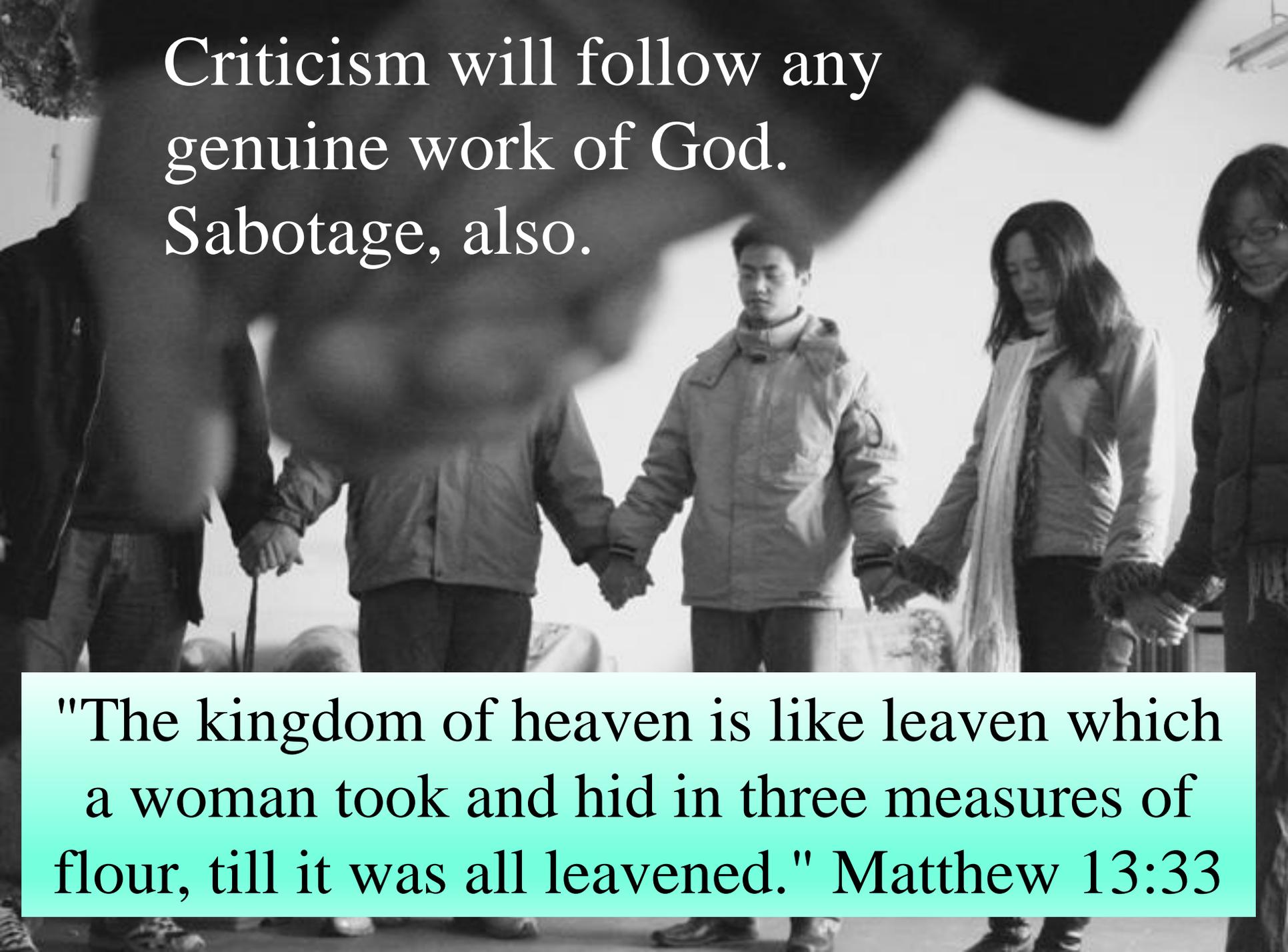
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34 But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."



Thou shalt not bear false witness.



Criticism will follow any
genuine work of God.
Sabotage, also.

"The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which
a woman took and hid in three measures of
flour, till it was all leavened." Matthew 13:33

S

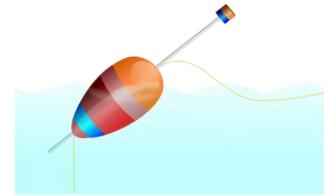
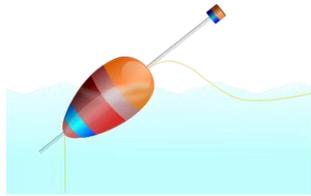
... notice ... and pray.

I

- work
- volunteer



- interests
- hobbies



-house

Prayer Walking

-family

H

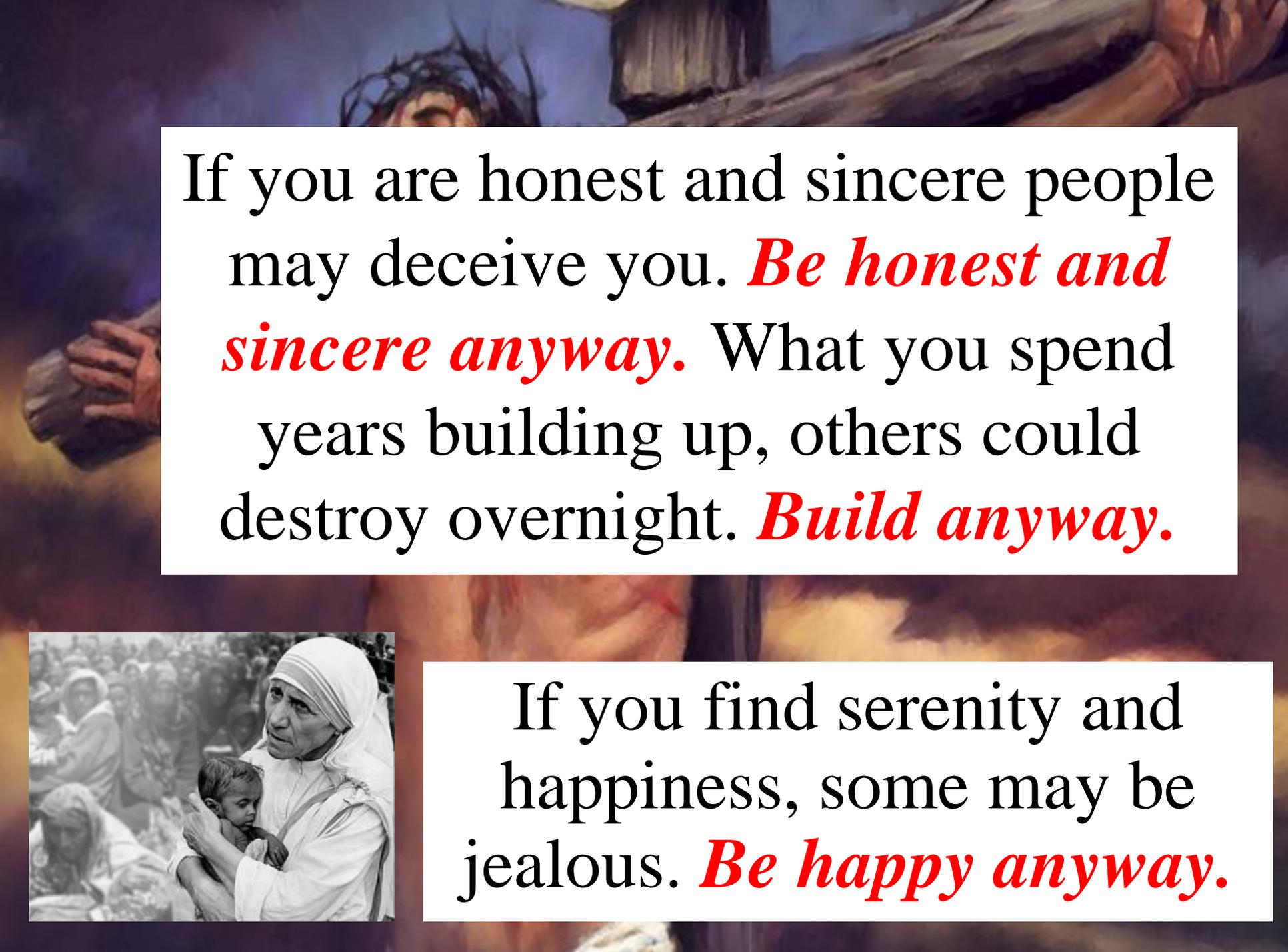
Help! Thanks! Wow!

F

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. *Forgive them anyway.* If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. *Be kind anyway.*



If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. *Succeed anyway.*



If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. *Be honest and sincere anyway.* What you spend years building up, others could destroy overnight. *Build anyway.*



If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. *Be happy anyway.*



The good you do today,
will often be forgotten.
Do good anyway. Give
the best you have, and it
will never be enough.
Give your best anyway.





In the final analysis, it is
between you and God.
*It was never between
you and them anyway.*

Henry Ford Faith Perspective.

Whether you believe
that God can
or
you believe that
God can't,
you're right.

P.U.S.H. = Pray until something happens.

