

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE | I Still Believe, part 2

SERIES | I Still Believe

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KEY SCRIPTURE | Jeremiah 6:16

SYNOPSIS | The things I learned in my youth are still true today, despite how much society has changed. And God's promises are reliable.

HIGHLIGHTS |



☞ I Still Believe (part 2)

Jeremiah 6:16

This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.

I basically was born and raised in the church. I grew up going to church Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night and sometimes other days of the week, too. I learned about Jesus, heaven, hell, and salvation from my youngest days. I received Christ as my Lord and Savior when I was just a kid. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit when I was a teenager. I heard the call of God on my life and went to Bible College to follow his lead. I’ve been in pastoral ministry for more than 30 years. In all that time, a lot has changed. But some things remain the same. I still believe what I learned all those years ago.

This past year has been especially difficult with ongoing COVID, economic and political concerns. But even closer to home has been a number of people I’ve known for years, passing away, and in my eyes, before their time. It’s been a challenging season. My faith has been tested. My doubts have come to the surface. I’ve had to wrestle through cynical thoughts and yet be careful to not fall into unbelief. In the midst of this turmoil, I wrote these lyrics to express how I was feeling:

Sometimes I wonder, “are the promises true?” Sometimes I wonder, “did I miss my cue?” It seems like I’ve been waiting for so long and I’m not sure if I can always be that strong. Sometimes I wonder.

Oh, Lord, I’m so tired, always waiting my turn. Oh, Lord, I’m so tired, seems I always get burned. Just when I think that I am gaining ground, it seems that more trouble always comes around. Oh, Lord, I’m so tired.

But when I doubt, then I reach out. I seek his face and ask for grace. I won’t give up. I’ll keep the faith. I won’t give in. I’ll run the race. I still believe. I still believe. I still believe.

**I still believe in the Virgin Birth.
I still believe Jesus died for our sins.
I still believe Jesus rose from the dead.
I still believe in heaven and hell.
I still believe in salvation.**

☞ I still believe the Bible is God’s Word.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



☞ **2 Peter 1:20-21**

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is made up of 66 books that were written over 1600 years (from approximately 1500 BC to AD 100) by more than 40 kings, prophets, leaders, and followers of Jesus.

Before the printing press was invented, the Bible was copied by hand. The Bible was copied very accurately, in many cases by special scribes who developed intricate methods of counting words and letters to ensure that no errors had been made.

There is much evidence that the Bible we have today is remarkably true to the original writings. Of the thousands of copies made by hand before AD 1500, more than 5300 Greek manuscripts from the New Testament alone still exist today. The text of the Bible is better preserved than the writings of Caesar, Plato, or Aristotle.

Wouldn't be cool if you received a personal letter from the Creator? Well, you have. It's contained in the bible. I still believe the Bible is God's Word.

☞ **I still believe there is only one true God.**

1 John 5:20

We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true — even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Deuteronomy 4:39

Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.

☞ **Isaiah 45:5**

I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God.

As I mentioned last week, there have been many prophets and teachers throughout history. Many have claimed to be God, but there is only one true God. Greeks believed in many gods – gods of the sea, gods of the earth, gods of the heavens, and so on. But, the truth is, there is only one God – the creator of heaven and earth.

He's the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last; He's beyond our comprehension; He's the future and the past; He's before time and creation; And he'll still be when it's done; He's the One who was, the One who is, and the One who is to come.

☞ **I still believe Jesus is coming soon.**



John 14:2-3

2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Acts 1:11

"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

☞ 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Jesus said there would be many signs to indicate that his return is just around the corner.

- False Christs
- War
- Ethnic conflict (nation against nation)
- Famine
- Earthquakes
- Persecution of believers
- False prophets
- Gospel preached throughout the world
- Signs in the heavens
- Unequaled times of trouble
- Pestilence (epidemic disease)
- Great fear

We see these things all around us and they are increasing. That's exactly what Jesus predicted – it would be like labor pains – more frequent and more intense. I still believe Jesus is coming soon!

Revelation 22:12

Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

☞ I still believe God's promises.

Joshua 21:45

Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 1:20



no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.

God is faithful. He made promises to Abraham concerning having many descendants even though Abraham and Sarah were very old and they had no children. God kept His promises to Moses, David, Israel and Joseph just to name a few. God kept His promise to mankind that He made back in Genesis 3:15 where he promised that Satan's power would be broken; this was accomplished with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

A lot of people are cynical about politics because for too many years, politicians have promised everything to everyone and have delivered nothing.

God keeps His promises. He delivers whatever he says. Remember David with Goliath? Remember Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Remember Daniel in the lion's den? They found God faithful. What about today? Is God still faithful?

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

For nearly 30 years, we have received prophetic words from various ministers declaring God's desire and plan for Open Bible. Naomi and I have also received personal prophetic words which tend to align with those for the church. I recently began to review these documented prophecies, which are more than 20 pages, and have boiled them down to the dominant recurring themes. Below are five broad categories of messages we have received, along with a few descriptive phrases from the prophecies. We have seen some tokens of fulfillment, but believe that the entirety of God's vision is yet to be realized.

☞ **Revival**

Revival is going to come; Revival will flow from here; Encounter with the Lord; Experience the power of God; Carriers of the joy of the Lord

☞ **New**

New perspective; Newness to life; Refreshing; Flourish again

☞ **More**

More than imagined; Blessings are coming; Increased music ministry; A finance anointing

☞ **A Hub**

A feeding place for many; A hub for ministry

☞ **Authority**

In preaching; In praying for the sick; Healing for families and couples; Power and might

These are God's promises to us, right here in Boone, Iowa. I still believe the promises!