

Joke: Father O'Malley was driving down to Boston when he got stopped for speeding in Medford. The highway patrol officer smelled alcohol on the priest's breath and then saw an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He said, 'Father, have you been drinking?'

'Only water', replied Father O'Malley.

The policeman asked, 'Then how come I can smell wine?'

The priest looked at the bottle and said, 'Good Lord! He's done it again.'

Just because God said so, that's why.

God will often times ask us to do things that make no sense, simply to see if you and I will be obedient.

Luke 5:1-6 - One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing

their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. **But because you say so, I will let down the nets.**" 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

Church this is what faith is, Faith is choosing to believe what God says, and act upon it as well regardless of our circumstances or feelings.

A carpenter telling fishermen how to fish. . .What did he know about fishing? And yet, he gave them a command to put out into deep water and let down their nets.

His command made no sense to the professional fishermen. And yet, Peter responded: "*Because you say so, I will...*"

A little hesitation maybe. No questions, a true statement, but no arguing over why it made no sense. He surrendered and obeyed.

And he wasn't even a follower yet.

I must confess I don't always have that same reaction. I don't always respond with, "*Because you say so, I will...*"

I don't know about you, but my dad and mom would often say to me when asked that question it seems all kids ask, why. . .do you know what they sometimes told me? Because I said so, and to be honest it wasn't much of a motivator for me.

But Peter simply says because you say so. . .

Joshua 6:1–5 (NIV): Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. 2 Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. 3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

This makes no sense. March around the city for six days and say nothing. Seventh day march around the city seven times then blow trumpets. . .really?

But look what happened. . .

Joshua 6:20 (NIV): When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men

gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

Why? Because God said so.

John 11:1–6 (NIV): Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.” 4 When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,

Ok that makes no sense he loves him, but stays 2 more days.

Let me say this before I continue with Lazarus. . .

The enemy will often try to get your to worry rather than worship, which will cause you to make decisions based on opportunity rather than anointing.

Ok back to the story. . .

John 11:38–44 (NIV): Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” 40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet

wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.
Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Jesus this is crazy, he stinks by now it's been 4 days. But because you say so.

See to often church we allow our circumstances to get in the way of God's plan.

Circumstance comes from two words circum (encircle) and stance (stand) in other words you are standing encircled by what's going on around you. Your circumstances instead of trusting in the one that can help you through those.

John 2:1–11 (NIV): On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” 4 “Woman, why do you

involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."
5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." 11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This really made no sense. Best wine saved till the end, but what made it even more interesting is verse 6.

6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

These were the jars used to wash hands. These weren't containers to drink from.

Plus way more wine than could be drunk at the wedding party. Think about it 6 jars holding 20 to 30 gallons. That's 120 to 180 gallons of wine.

But because you said so. . .I will

But then they had to bring them to their boss, how do you explain that one? Boss Jesus told us to fill these ceremonial jars with water and look.

Matthew 14:22–33 (NIV): Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had

dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

How crazy must that have been to witness? People have criticized Peter, but you know what. I haven't read where anyone else even tried.

But because you said come. ..

James 1:22–25 (NIV): Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Let me read these verses from the Passion Translation:

James 1:22–25 (TPT): Don't just listen to the Word of Truth and not respond to it, for that is the essence of self-deception. So always let his Word become like poetry written and fulfilled by your life! 23 If you listen to the Word and don't live out the message you hear, you become like the person who looks in the mirror of the Word to discover the reflection of his face in the beginning. 24 You perceive how God sees you in the mirror of the Word, but then you

go out and forget your divine origin. 25 But those who set their gaze deeply into the perfecting law of liberty are fascinated by and respond to the truth they hear and are strengthened by it—they experience God's blessing in all that they do!

Why do we do what sometimes seems so crazy?

Because God said so...

Be doers of the Word.

I find this interesting, The first words of Satan was, has God said? By the way that was also the first question posed in Scripture. You know what some of the first words of Jesus recorded in the New Testament were? It is written. The only words before those from Jesus in Luke were to his parents when they lost him, he asked why are searching for me?

I think some of the struggles with the children of God is that we question if it's what God said more then we say it is

written. . .

I pray for those that need healing. . .because He said so

I read his word. . .because he said to

I try to live right. . .because he said so

I believe I'm loved. . .because he said so

I am more than a conqueror. . .because he said so

I can do all things through Christ. . .because he said so

Church just do it. I know that's a Nike thing, but just do
it. . .because he said so.