

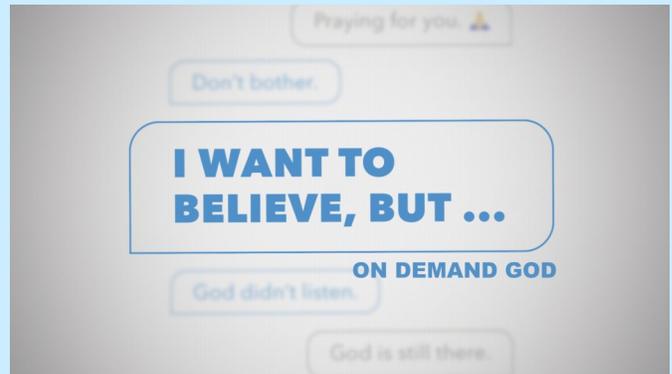
Direct From Dave —

October 11, 2018



On Sunday we begin a new sermon series. The 4- week sermon series is entitled, *“I want to believe, but...”* We sometimes put *our* expectations on God. We want to believe, but we want God to do what *we* say, and do it when *we* need it. Looking at scripture, we realize that when we believe, there is a lot of faith involved; and things are not always the way we want it.

During our series we will be looking at the types of “God” we think we ought to have. See if any of these might sound familiar:



‘On Demand God’---I pray and pray but God doesn’t give me what I ask for and how I ask for it.

‘Killjoy God’---I don’t want to be held down by religion. I’d rather have fun and happiness in my life.

‘Heartless God’---There are so many tragedies in the world, and I can’t believe a loving God would allow them to happen.

‘Goosebump God’---God should make me feel a certain way, and I just don’t feel Him move the way He does for other people.

Oh I want to believe, but...

Many are saying **I want to believe, but** I want an **“On Demand God.”** We are used to Netflix and streaming services where we can watch shows anytime we want. When the TIVO recording system came out on our cable TV I thought it was the best thing ever. I remember through the years, right in the middle of a movie, my phone would ring and I would need to leave for a pastoral emergency and therefore miss the end of the TV show. In the scope of things, this trivial example was changed when I could stop, record a show and watch it when I returned. Oh to be at a church meeting and know I’m not missing ‘my’ show because I am recording it, and can watch it later. Now if we miss a show, we can watch it **On Demand** whenever we want to.

Sometimes we want an **‘On Demand God.’** We want God to do things for us when *we* want. We have become such an **On Demand** society that we have placed that expectation on God. **I want to believe, but...**God doesn’t always give me what I ask for and when I ask for it.

I don’t know about you, but I am somewhat guilty about putting God in a box and expecting an **On Demand God**.

Scripture says this: Isaiah 55:8-9 New International Version (NIV) ⁸“*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,*” declares the LORD. ⁹“*As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*”

Is it about *our* way or *His* way? **I want to believe, but...**

I encourage you to invite someone to worship with us at one of our three services on Sunday. They too may be struggling with obstacles that are keeping them from believing.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Dave



Westlake

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Golf Tournament & Family Dinner

Saturday, October 20, 2018

East Lake Woodlands Country Club

Fall Fundraiser presented by the
Westlake Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

For sponsorship and
registration information,
please contact the Westlake
office at 727-781-3808.

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