

## Defiant Christianity

1 of 1 | Defying All Odds

### SLIDE 1 Introduction

The word “defiant” may seem to have some bad connotations associated with it, but it can also be a good thing when applied to your faith in Christ. When thought of in a worldly sense, it means to defy authority or to reject the system under which you live.

The word “defiant” also takes it a little further than passive aggression, where you resist the system by simply not doing what it requires. Defiance can mean to actively work to hinder or even overthrow the system that has authority over you.

Today we are going to look at what it means to be a defiant Christian in a good sense. In the sense of defying what the world says you are and even defying what the world thinks a Christian ought to be. Also, maybe even what you think of yourself at times. We need to be Christians that “defy” all odds (ODD).

*NOTE: Oppositional Defiant Disorder or ODD is defined now by mental health experts as a behavioral problem and it's often directed at difficult children. But our entire society has become defiant and yet oppose you when you show any sign of defiance to their agenda for your life. Just a thought.*

### SLIDE 2 Being Defiant

As I've already stated, being defiant can be a good thing, depending on how you apply your defiance—and towards what you apply it to.

Of course the root of the word is defy. In short “defy” means to refuse to obey. We see this when Peter and the other apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin and told not to speak any longer in the name of Jesus. Their defiance of the authority the priests had over their lives was superseded by the authority God had over them. So they, in a sense, weren't just being disobedient to civil, political, or social authorities, they were being obedient to a higher authority.

### SLIDE 3 Many Are Jealous

The apostles were having a great revival in the courts of the temple. Many were being healed and they were performing many signs and wonders among the people. However, the high priest and his people were jealous and arrested the apostles and put them in jail.

The angel of the Lord let them out that night and the next day they returned to what they were doing in full view of the authorities that be.

The Sanhedrin again brought the apostles before them, this time without the force of arrest. They commanded the apostles to not speak any longer in the name of Jesus. In response Peter (with the others in agreement) said this:

**SLIDE 4 Acts 5"29-32 (NIV)** *"<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: **"We must obey God rather than human beings!**" <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross."*

**SLIDE 5** *"<sup>31</sup> God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, **whom God has given to those who obey him.**"*

Notice the words "obey him." They were not just being disobedient to the governing authorities, they were recognizing the ultimate authority over their lives—God. We must obey him. We are compelled to obey him.

#### **SLIDE 6 God Is Our Governor**

When we were saved we became citizens of a new kingdom. It reigns in our hearts and we must obey its dictates. It's not that we are defiant in the sense that we are disobedient to the laws of the land we live in. It's that many times the dictates of the Holy Spirit go contrary to man's laws—civil, political, social, and even sometimes religious.

Going deeper, this defiance actually begins within us as we defy the opposing dictates of our carnal nature—our flesh. The internal conflict begins when the laws of God run contrary to the things our own flesh wants, or when our spirit runs afoul of the enemy's lies. It may even run afoul of your family, the social order in which you live, and possibly the legal system that governs the location where you reside.

Let's look at this growing defiance within us first.

#### **SLIDE 7 I Do Not Do What I Want To Do**

In Paul's discourse on this topic (Romans 7), he expounds to us the conflict we have internally with our flesh and *"the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus."* (Romans 8:2) You will find this idea of defiance fills chapter 7 entirely. I just want to hit the conclusion of what Paul said in verses 21 through 23:

**SLIDE 8 Romans 7:21-23 (NIV)** *"<sup>21</sup> So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup> For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup> but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me."*

You see, your flesh still thinks it's in authority over your life, but your mind knows something is different—something new. So as the apostles told the Sanhedrin, we find ourselves telling our own selves, "I must obey God, not the will of my flesh."

This conflict enlists the need for defiance. Defiant Christians talk back to themselves. They say things like, "No, I will not believe that," "It's not over until I say it's over," and "I am an overcomer in this life by Christ Jesus."

### **SLIDE 9 More Than Self-Speak**

This is what we actually call "taking authority." The world has a similar, less effective way of doing it called "self-speak." It's less effective because they can't discern truth from error without the Spirit and may unwittingly be playing into the desires of their own flesh.

You can't take authority over anything else until you take authority over yourself. And you won't have authority that is effective until it's based on the truth of God's Word.

As you can tell, this is a deeper aspect of the message I shared last Sunday called *Well, I Do Declare!*

Self-control precedes control of anything around you. Of note is the fact the self-control lessens the need to control others also. Why? Because they don't have as great an affect on your own personal peace and contentment.

### **SLIDE 10 Talking To Yourself**

Have you ever heard words of self-condemnation coming from your own self? Yes, there are words that have been put on your by others and you struggle to free yourself from them.

But there are also ideas about yourself that you have fashioned either as excuses for who you think you are or as strongholds protecting you from further emotional and mental damage. That's why the Bible says:

**SLIDE 11 2nd Corinthians 10:4, 5 (NIV)** *"<sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the*

*weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> **We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***

Our words are not just to affect the things around us, they are also to correct the things within us. We need to think clearly. To do this we must “cast down” every imagination that exalts itself against what God has told us about who we are in Christ.

A “pretense” is a false image of yourself. The mirror of the Word removes all the makeup and coverup. It reveals the real you. We must stand in agreement with who God has fashioned us to be. We must defy everything that tells us contrariwise.

**SLIDE 12** Let me close with a few defiant “will nots” of a Defiant Christian:

- 12b** 1. I WILL NOT Give up!
- 12c** 2. I WILL NOT Give In!
- 12d** 3. I WILL NOT Lose Hope!
- 12e** 4. I WILL NOT Be Deceived!
- 12f** 5. I WILL NOT Compromise!
- 12g** 6. I WILL NOT Surrender to the Enemy!

I defy everything that tells me I cannot have what God said I could have. I defy every excuse my flesh offers me. I defy every criticism others hurl in my direction, even about my faith. I defy every idea that I am not worthy of the love God has shown me. I publicly defy the world, the flesh, and the devil. Amen.

### **SLIDE 13 Altar Time**

Learn to take authority over the words that fly around in your head and soon you will be taking authority over every situation around you. You’ll defy all odds!