



## **Believing is Becoming | Doug Wekenman | 1.22.23**

### **Weekly Study**

#### **S H A R E**

This week Doug gave a powerful message for week 3 of our series “The Future You”. You are going to get to where you’re going, one step at a time. If you don’t like the future you’re headed toward, now is the perfect time to make a change! He taught us that the thoughts we believe will determine the person we become, so what do we have to do in order to become the people we want to be? Our lives are headed in the direction of our strongest thoughts — we need to ask ourselves whether we like the direction that those thoughts are headed. What thoughts do we need to build and bury in order to become the future versions of ourselves that God has in mind for us in 2023? As we identify those thoughts, watch as the Holy Spirit strengthens us and allows grace to be the powerful force that pushes us forward in our walk with Him this year.

#### **Fasting Check-In**

- **How was the second week of your fast?**
- **In what ways have you seen God show up in your life this week that you might have normally missed if you weren’t fasting?**
- **Do you need to be encouraged to keep going in your fast? How can your group encourage you?**
- **What are you still praying and believing for?**

#### **G R O W**

### **Read John 1:35-42.**

What you believe about God is the most important thing about you. At Red Rocks Church, we are all about helping you experience what God thinks about about you. We must decide who we believe that He is and then not be double-minded about it. If you believe that He is an angry God who is ready to punish you at any moment, then you haven't yet encountered Him for who He really is. At the same time, if all you know of God is that he provides a "get out of hell free" card and believe that gives you license to live however you want, then you haven't experienced the abundant life that he has for you yet either. We cannot allow our experiences to dictate our theology; rather, we must allow the word of God and character of God to shape our beliefs. There is only one way, one truth and one life — it is Jesus, the One who has good plans for you and will see them through to completion for those who are in relationship with Him. He doesn't want followers of a religion, he wants to know you personally.

The deepest longing of the human heart is to know and be known by God and other people. In John 1 we see the story of Simon and Jesus as Jesus gives him a new name — a new identity. In this time, names were synonymous with your identity. Jesus saw Simon for everything that he was and would be - the good and the bad, the success and the failure - and still told him that he was a new creation. He had a plan for Simon and calls him into that both literally and symbolically by changing his name. He loved him exactly as he was, and also loved him too much to let him stay there. It's the same for us.

- **What comes to your mind first when you think about God?**
- **What do you believe God believes about you?**
- **What does God actually believe about you? Do you find it easy or difficult to believe that for yourself? What about for other people? Why is it so much easier to believe this for other people more than ourselves?**

## **M O V E**

### **Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-17.**

In order to get to the most thriving future versions of ourselves, we have to ask ourselves what thoughts we need to build and bury in order to get to where we want to be. If we want to become healthier, we need to believe that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and steward them that way. If it's to become more generous, then we need to work on building a mindset of abundance. If it's to thrive in relationships, then

we need to believe that we are who God says we are, that people enjoy us and that we're worthy of love and belonging. Conversely, there are often barriers that stand in the way of where we're headed. Dig deep and get adamant that where you want to go with God, those barriers cannot go with you. Whatever the thing that you need to bury is, remember that grace murders the shame attached to those barriers and allow the Holy Spirit to move you out of feeling stuck.

- **What is the thought you need to bury this week?**
- **What is the thought you want to build this week?**

## **P R A Y**

Take time to pray together asking God to reveal himself as you all continue this season of a fast. The enemy wants nothing more but to derail the closer you get to seeing. God's breakthrough happen in your life. Pray against his plans asking God to protect and give strength that only can come through Jesus and Jesus alone. Pray that the Spirit would give you

