



## Work ... what's forgiveness got to do with it?

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This is what a number of business leaders came to think about and discuss on Tuesday, December 10, 2017 when Kyle Pease, founder of the Kyle Pease Foundation <http://www.kylepeasefoundation.org/> spoke at BELIEVES to share his thoughts on the topic.

Pease grew up in a Jewish household. In fact, he said if someone had said ‘Jesus’ just five years ago, he would have screamed and run out the door or said something not very nice.

“I didn’t want people to pray over me or anything,” Pease said. “I never denied Jesus’ historical existence. I just did what I did to survive.”

Pease, who is dependent on caregivers, has had cerebral palsy all his life.

He graduated from Kennesaw State University in 2008 with a degree in Sports Management. After graduation, he moved home and began working at Publix, but wanted to do something more substantial. He later landed a job at Piedmont Hospital.

Not long after in 2011, Pease’s parents, who had been married for 32 years, divorced.

“They had lost respect for one another,” Pease indicated. “I saw their marriage fall apart right in front of my own eyes.”

It’s at this point in his life that Pease wanted to see what was out there faith-wise. His first stop was Buckhead Church.

“I wheeled in there for the first time on Easter Sunday 2012,” Pease recalled. “I wasn’t sure if I was at a Falcons game or a church. I didn’t see anything but drums and lights – but no cross.”

Pease said after the service he thought to himself, “OK, I will cross that off my bucket list.”

“I was a very lost soul.”

So Pease sat with everything for three months, and then one day he asked the Lord to come into his heart to receive his blessings, and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

“I was going against the grain because no one was Christian in my family,” Pease said. “I had to get facts and research to present it to my family.”

One thing Pease thinks is cool about the Lord is that he doesn’t have to say anything – God does it all.

“It’s amazing to feel the Lord’s presence. The Lord inspires me. I don’t get inspired by much, but the Lord inspires me.”

To communicate with his family about his faith in Christ, Pease decided to write an 8-page letter to each of his family members.

"I live with my mom, and my dad lives right around the corner," he stated. "Everyone was onboard including my twin brother who is atheist – everyone except my mom. She's my best friend. I didn't want to upset her. I just gave it to God."

Then one day, Pease said his mother called him and said they needed to talk.

"She said, 'Why do you believe?' and I responded, 'Mom, He died for my sins,'" Pease recalled. "Her faith dropped to the floor. She was upset. I felt peace. There's no denying it."

Pease then began to speak with everyone at the BELIEVES session a bit more generically for a moment.



"As man, we have a lot of pride," he said. "One of the biggest frustrations I have at the hospital is I'm there to help but most men want to do it themselves. I do this myself too. Yet, when we succumb to the Lord, the burden is lifted. We're saying, 'Lord, You are in control.'"

Pease indicated he had to say this to his mom.

"Now my dad, he spied on me sometimes at Buckhead Church. I said, 'Dad, I'm at church, not somewhere else,'" Pease recalled. "He said, 'I know. I don't get this obedience to Christ.' I said, 'I don't either.'"

Pease then told everyone that when we receive the Holy Spirit, we're allowed to give it to others. We can't give a blessing until we receive it first.

"For me, someone opening the door might seem little, but it's huge. Not only are you opening the door to allow me to come in, you're opening the door to Christ for me."

Then Pease paused to ask everyone a question.

"What is it in your life that will make a difference in your spiritual walk for you and your family, especially in this holiday season?"

Pease said we celebrate Christmas not because of gifts or what we're owed, but about birth.

"I love Christmas, but I don't," he stated. "It's so 'me, me, me' and 'I, I, I.' Why can't it be 'we, we, we' and 'Him, Him, Him?' Think about the impact Christ has had on me and you. He's at the top."

Pease shared he's not perfect, and admitted he's a terrible prayer.

"I forget this all the time."

“You have to be real and authentic with God. If you’re happy, let Him know. If you’re mad, give Him praise, and let Him know.”

So Pease challenged everyone again.

“How is it that each person here can make an impact on someone’s life? It can be giving \$5 to a homeless person, but it doesn’t have to be that.”

Pease said it can be a call to a friend and asking, ‘How are you doing? What can I pray for?’ He said it can also be telling a spouse, ‘I appreciate you.’

“If we disrespect others, we disrespect Him,” Pease said. “If we can’t do that, we need to ask Him to break us. I love hitting the reset button.”

Pease told everyone that he got baptized in 2013, and described it as the greatest moment in his life (Video of Baptism: <http://buckheadchurch.org/adults/baptism/baptism-videos/videos/kyle-pease>).

“If I could, I’d relive it every day,” he said. “The truth is – we can. He lets us do that every moment, and every day we wake up.”

Pease said he doesn’t hope anymore, and doesn’t believe in luck.

He also added, “I don’t believe God is a sports fan. I do believe God is a loving God. We are His sons and daughters.”



Pease wrapped up the session sharing about his favorite scripture verse – Philippians 4:13.

“The verse is ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’ The emphasis is on ‘because of Him.’ Caregivers – because of Him. Opened doors – because of Him. Piedmont Hospital – because of Him.”

Pease added, “If you take a step back, even in struggles, and tell Him ‘thank you’ you are acknowledging Him. All He wants to do is love us.”

“So what are we going to do today? How can we better His kingdom in this moment?”