

Times of Spiritual Trial

With the pressures of the work environment, seeking to walk with Christ and let the Holy Spirit guide all one's work decisions can often be challenging. How can one seek to be a Business Executive Leading with Integrity, Entrusted Values, and Expectancy (BELIEVES) in the work environment?

How do we continuously invite God into _____ and find real joy – even if it's messy?"

The 2024 BELIEVES season maintained its focus on this overarching question on Tuesday, May 14th, with a discussion focused on "Times of Spiritual Trial," prompted by reflections and thoughts shared by Kirk Driskell, Founder of Vision Warriors, and serial entrepreneur.



Born and raised in the North Fulton / Alpharetta, Driskell, who will celebrate his 25th wedding anniversary with his wife this September, said that he grew up in a Christian home.

There were no traumas that led him down the path he was on in his early years as a teen and young adult.

"I just chose to find fulfillment in areas from drugs and alcohol," he said.

April 24, 1995, however, was a day that was life-changing for him.

"That day I surrendered to the fact that I couldn't do it on my own."

Before long, Driskell started attending AA meetings.

"It was all there," he recalled. "One of the 1st AA meetings I went to, a guy came up to me and said, 'You need to look for the similarities, not the differences. We will give you everything you need for free, with one condition – you give it away for free.'"

Having said this, Driskell then shared with everyone that to look into the mirror is easy to do today.

"Back then the guilt and the shame were tough," he said. "I did all those things. No one did them to me. The guilt and shame did more to keep me away from what God's wanting for me."

The brokenness of feeling unredeemable and unlovable was tough, he shared.

What he found through AA and finding other support was not a replacement for, but an alignment with God.

“Most of my challenges were in things I have done to people,” Driskell acknowledged. “In our process, we make a step focused on what amends I need to make for all those who I have harmed.”

After mentioning the step of acknowledging things done and making amends for all those harmed, Driskell then shifted to how he handles situations today.

“I can’t control what’s done to me, but I can control how I respond,” he stated. “Then it’s who I call. Before I go to bed, I check to ask, ‘Do I need to make amends with anyone before I rest?’”

In the end, Driskell told everyone that it’s the 1% of things you hold on to that is what’s driving you.

“Someone once told me, ‘You can spray it with Round Up all you want, but if the roots are still there, then the rats will come back,’” recalled Driskell as he shared the illuminating illustration that had been told to him.

With all Driskell is led to do, and has done in his life journey so far, what are some “Big D” (Big decisions) and “little d” (little decisions) that he could let everyone know about specifically that illustrate how times of spiritual trial can be navigated?

“The question I would always ask is, ‘God, is this what you want me to do?’” said Driskell.

Having asked this question, Driskell was clear in stating that if how his day turns out is how he needed to make it, reorganizing his mind around that would be a battle all day.

“I would not have done what I’ve done without surrendering daily, seeking counsel, being transparent with some brothers who are trusted, and keeping my ego out of it,” he shared.

On a personal side, Driskell said he can guide people through what he has been through but going beyond that – like going with other pastors to Cherokee County Jail to meet with every man getting out to talk them through the experience – can be more challenging, but also equally rewarding.

The greatest challenge for Driskell, however, is navigating his walk as a father with Knox, the second of his three children.

“Navigating with Knox as his father, not his sponsor or his friend – it’s the most challenging thing. I am continually surrendering my son’s future to God daily,” Driskell told the audience.

Having shared about how critical the practice of surrendering daily is, Driskell closed the session with an offer to help others in need.

“If you know anyone who is struggling with drugs or alcohol, they can call me and if I can’t talk with them, I’ll get someone to,” he offered.

When asked if there was a person or two who he has helped over the years that was most rewarding or impactful to walk with, Driskell had a man named Brett come to mind.

“I told myself, if I get 12 guys into ‘World Changer’ capacity, then I’m done and I’ll go back to just engaging with people 1-on-1,” he said. “I have been doing this since 1995, and I’ve only had two. Brett’s one of them. When I met him, I asked what his plan was, and he said, ‘I don’t know.’ I gave him my cell and said, ‘Call me when you get out of the program.’ I have given my number to 1,000’s of people at this point and am more surprised when they call. When he left (the program he was in), he called. Next day, he met me at my office, and we had breakfast. To see what all he’s doing now is amazing.”