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# Walking Dusty... teacher: Scott VanEtten

One of the best Bible studies I've ever done was Beth Moore's *Believing God*. In it Beth challenges readers to not just believe in God (even the demons do that!) but to truly believe God and then live like you believe. In the study, participants are encouraged to memorize this pledge:

God is who He says He is.  
God can do what He says He can do.  
I am who God says I am.  
I can do all things through Christ.  
God's Word is alive and active in me.

During our trip to Haiti, Kayla was reading a book by Ann Voskamp entitled *One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are*. Throughout the book Ann talks about looking at life – in fact every situation – as a gift from God and being grateful for these places, even when they're hard.

It's easy to be thankful when the kids aren't fighting or I get an A on a test. I'm easily pleased when the dinner tastes good and my husband pitches in to help with the dishes. But the real test is when things don't go my way. Will I be grateful that my husband is laid off – again? What's my attitude like when my kids get up late and we're rushing out the door to school? What happens in my heart when I get home and the kids aren't dressed and the house is a mess?

These are the things with which Beth Moore and Ann Voskamp challenge readers. They know that behind our circumstances is a loving God who speaks truth in pages of Scripture to tell His Creation who He is and that He is able. They remind readers that God knows each of us and what He says about us in Scripture is true. And because God's Word can transform lives, both Beth and Ann encourage readers to live a life obediently following Christ.

No matter what happens today, how will I respond? Will I believe that God can work all things together for my good? Will I be grateful, even if I don't get my way? Can I be thankful when life is hard, and I might not understand what God is doing? These are challenges that each of us faces, and God wants to work through all of them to make us more like Christ. But we have a choice. Will we believe and thankfully obey Him?

## Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39) Will we choose to love God, even when life is hard?

Scott challenged, will we radically obey? What does this look like in my life? In what areas am I obeying? Where do I need God's help to want to obey? Can I obey God's commands with complete resolve?

At one point in my journey, I struggled with believing that God would forgive me. Is there an area of my life where I'm not believing God? Why? Have I confessed my unbelief to Him?

**Additional verses:** *John 14:23, Romans 8:28, Ephesians 5:15-20, Philippians 4:4, 2 John 6*