

## Maintaining Convictions on the Mission Field – Next Steps 2015

### 2 Kings 6:4-6

*4 So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood.*

*5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.*

*6 And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.*

### Developing Convictions:

Convictions come from God as His Holy Spirit leads and guides us

### John 14:26

*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

### John 16:13

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

1 Corinthians 2:10, Ephesians 4:7-15, 1 John 2:20, 27

Developing convictions is a process that begins when we receive the Holy Ghost and continues through life.

Convictions can change with different stages of life and different technologies

Radio

Television

Internet

These have all posed new challenges to the church and to believers as to how we deal with them

Some convictions we maintain because of leadership, position or because we have been asked to do so.

If we agree to work for someone in a local church setting we should also agree to abide by their guidelines; corporations do this every day as far as the dress of their employees, tattoos, jewelry, facial hair etc.

Convictions should not be based on culture alone but they can have some cultural influences.

Many Latin American evangelical groups are adamantly opposed to nativity scenes at Christmas because it represents idolatry for them and that is what they were freed from. We can respect this type of cultural conviction

There is a tribe of indigenous people in Mexico that have a custom of the father having intimate relations with their daughters the night before they are married – definitely cultural but not Biblical

Convictions should always be based on God's Word

Convictions have to be tied to Gods word or they will fluctuate with time and cultural mores

### **Time Changers Movie – Great premise and principle**

<http://www.timechangermovie.com/>

We are not in a competition to see how many convictions I have compared to someone else – judging ourselves among ourselves is unwise according to the scripture.

We might be asked to take on additional convictions because of where we live or the nation we are working in.

## **Maintaining Convictions:**

So, if we receive our convictions from God's Word and Holy Spirit then the way we maintain our convictions is to stay in the Word and connected to God's Spirit.

Elisha asked the man where he lost the axe head and the simple answer is he found it where he lost it.

We must maintain a relationship with God and have our time of personal devotion outside of anything else we do for the Kingdom.

Staying in God's Word and connected to His Spirit will keep my convictions strong

Maintaining convictions on the mission field is as easy as:

1. Knowing who we are – Apostolic children of God
2. Whose we are – Ambassadors of Jesus Christ
3. The source of our convictions – God, through his Word and Spirit

Culture, social acceptance or pressures should not influence our convictions if we know who gave them to us.

Think of convictions like love – do we not love our parents, siblings or spouse because we are in a different country, separated from them or because society changes?

Of course not – so neither should we compromise our convictions while on the mission field or because of social change.