

Unbelief, a Barrier to Manifestation of Healing

Matthew 17:14-21 14 *And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, 15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. 16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. 17 Then Jesus answered and said, **O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.** 18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.** 21 **Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.***

Mark 9:17-29 17 *And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; 18 And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. 19 He answereth him, and saith, **O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.** 20 And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. 21 And he asked his father, **How long is it ago since this came unto him?** And he said, Of a child. 22 And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. 23 Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.** 24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, **Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.** 26 And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. 27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? 29 And he said unto them, **This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.***

Is it a lack of faith?

Romans 12:3 *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

- a) God has dealt or given EVERY man the measure of faith.
- b) You have faith. A lack of it is not the problem as many people have thought. For a born-again believer, he is never lacking in faith.
 - i) NIV says it is a faith issue—little faith, but that is not an accurate translation.
- c) You do not have a faith problem.
- d) Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 12:3. We all have the faith of God.

Our effort is to root out unbelief, not get more faith. It is an unbelief problem. You have an unbelief problem, not a faith issue. When the disciples asked for more faith, Jesus did not increase their faith. Luke 17:5 *And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.*

Unbelief and faith

Unbelief = thoughts, actions, feelings, words, or emotions contrary to Faith and/or the Word of God.

Faith = thoughts, feelings, words, actions, and emotions consistent with what God said (God's Word).

Mark 9:24 *And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*

- a) You can have both faith and unbelief at the same time, but you will not receive. You will have a split decision and whoever was ruling before continues to wear the champion belt.
- b) You can believe but unbelief will negate your faith.

Mark 5:36 *As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, **Be not afraid, only believe.***

- a) Why would Jesus tell this ruler to only believe if he could not doubt at the same time? For Him to say, "Only" means something else was also present.
 - i) Fear and faith are opposing forces and can co-exist just as unbelief and faith can coexist.
 - ii) Fear is faith in reverse. Fear is believing something or someone other than God.
- b) Fear will negate faith.

James 1:5-8 *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

- a) When we ask, we need to ask in faith. How do we know we are asking in faith? One of the ways is when we are asking according to the Word of God and the other is when we are not wavering or doubting.
- b) If we waiver, we will not receive anything of the Lord. Why? Because we are double-minded. Unbelief will negate our faith.

How unbelief comes

- a) Ignorance of God's Word and promises
 - i) The solution is knowing and learning the truth of God's Word.
 - ii) Romans 12:1-2
 - iii) Spend time in the Word and with the Lord
- b) Wrong teaching
 - i) The solution is to erase and counter the lies and then plant seeds of the truth in their hearts.
- c) Natural unbelief

This natural unbelief is accused by looking at the natural circumstances. This is when people go by what they see, smell, feel, or hear.

Matthew 14:22 -33 *And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. 23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. 24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.** 28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29 And he said, **Come.** And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?** 32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. 33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.*

- a) We cannot walk on water and see breakthroughs and miracles while looking at the natural circumstances.
- b) Peter walking on water had nothing to do with the existence of the storm because even on a calm day he could not. What made the difference is His looking at Jesus.
- c) He was in faith as long as he was looking at Jesus, but when he started looking at *“the wind boisterous, he was afraid.”*
 - i) Looking and hearing are one of the entrances to a natural kind of unbelief.
 - ii) Jesus revealed that the issue was not a lack of faith, but doubt (unbelief).
- d) When we look at the natural, we get afraid (fear creeps in) and we begin to sink.
 - i) For Peter, looking at the wrong thing (waves) led to fear which then led to sinking. If you are sinking, you have been looking at the wrong thing, which also allows fear.
- e) It is not a lack of faith that caused him to sink but the entrance of unbelief.

- f) The solution according to verse 21 is fasting and prayer which includes studying the Word which all help get rid of unbelief that led us to focus on the natural circumstances. Through fasting and prayer, we get to hear God and enter the realm of faith. Verse 21— This is not saying you need fasting for demons to go. The context is speaking about unbelief—not the demon.

More on how to deal with unbelief

a) Praying in the Spirit

Jude 1:20-21 *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

- i) When you speak in tongues you build yourself up in your most holy faith

b) Remove yourself from the unbelief environment

i) Seclusion

Jesus removed and put people out from Him for their unbelief.

- o Jesus sought seclusion many times when he ministered to people. The people's unbelief can be a great barrier to seeing a miracle. We must realize the hindrances that other people's unbelief can bring and try to avoid it at all costs.
- o This is the reason Jesus put all the scorers that mocked him out (*Matthew 9:24, Mark 5:40, Luke 8:53*). These guys were not operating in faith. You can see that through their actions of laughing at Jesus—they were full of unbelief and Jesus did not need their company.
- o In order to see constant results, it's not just a matter of believing period. Unbelief must be dealt with – i.e., thoughts, actions, confessions, feelings, etc. We should counter every kind of unbelief we face in order to get a manifestation.

- ii) 1 Corinthians 15:33 *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

c) Speak back

Do not be passive towards unbelief—Attack unbelief. You have to condemn (using your words) those things thoughts or words—passive or active right away.

- i) 2 Corinthians 10:5
 - ii) Isaiah 54:17
- d) You control your thoughts by/through words.
- i) Take no thought saying

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

God never created a season for loss and suffering. There is no time that the Word of God does not work for me.