

OUR SOURCE & SHIELD

The Power Of Belief

I. Belief has power; There is power in what you believe

- **Heb3:17-4:6**-With whom **was he grieved** forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? ¹⁹ So we see that they could not **enter in** because of **unbelief**. ¹Let us therefore **fear**, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. ² For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but **the word preached did not profit them**, not being **mixed with faith** in them that heard it. ³ For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ^{3AMP} For we who have believed (adhered to and trusted in and relied on God) do enter that rest, in accordance with His declaration that those [who did not believe] should not enter when He said, As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest; and this He said **although [His] works had been completed and prepared [and waiting for all who would believe] from the foundation of the world**. ^{4AMP} For in a certain place He has said this about the seventh day: And God rested on the seventh day from all His works. ^{5AMP} And [they forfeited their part in it, for] in this [passage] He said, They shall not enter My rest. ⁶ Seeing then that the promise remains over [from past times] for some to enter that rest, and that those who formerly were given the good news about it and the opportunity, **failed to appropriate it and did not enter because of disobedience** ^{6KJ} Entered not in because of unbelief

A. Was it the will of God that they possess the promise land?-**Ex3:7,8**-The Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites; **Ex13:5**-It shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey; **Ex23:23,28**-For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off. I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.; **Ex33:1,2**-The LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swore unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it: And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite: Unto a land flowing with milk and honey; **Ex34:11**-Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite; **Nm13:2**-Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel

B. What did they believe?-**Dt1:27**-And ye murmured in your tents, and said, Because the LORD hated us, **he hath brought us forth** out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, **to destroy us**. ²⁸ Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there. ²⁹ Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them. ³⁰ The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes; ³¹And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place. ³²Yet in this thing **ye did not believe the LORD your God**

C. What did they experience? Why did they experience it? -They didn't go in because of unbelief-**Nm32:13**-He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the Lord was consumed

D. This is the power of belief-They got what they believed, not God's will for their lives

1. What you believe is so powerful it can keep God's will from coming to pass in your life-God can have it prepared and waiting for you, God can want it for you and be doing everything He can to get it to you and unbelief can keep it from happening
2. People think that if something is the will of God and God wants it to happen it's going to happen-Did God want this to happen? Was this the will of God? People say God must have not wanted this to happen

II. We need to respect the power of belief-**Hb4:1**-Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it; **AC**-While the promise of entering His rest still holds and is offered [today], let us be afraid [to distrust it]

A. We must cultivate a respect for the power of belief

1. Fear definition-Revere; This is idea of respect the power of something; **EX**: Like a gun; You better have some fear in the sense of respecting the power of it

2. Let us fear what?-Fear that we come short of the promise, but unbelief is what causes us to come short of it? Do we need to be respectful of the power of what we believe?
3. Be careful with what you believe-It can change the course of your life
4. The dangerous power of unbelief-Miss will of God, Make word unprofitable, Forfeit your part in God's promises, Lead to disobedience-Hb3:19-4:6

B. Unbelief can shut God out of your life-*Mk6:5-He could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them; Mt13:58-And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief*

1. Jesus was in Nazareth because God sent him there to teach, preach and heal-*Jn8:28-When you lift up the Son of man then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself (of my own accord); Mt4:23-Jesus went about all Galilee (Nazareth was right there in Galilee) teaching in the synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people; Lk4:16-And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. ¹⁷ And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹ To preach the acceptable year of the Lord; Acts10:37-That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; ³⁸ How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*
2. God's will for Nazareth wasn't done because of their unbelief not His sovereignty-To say miracles weren't done in there because it wasn't the will of God is a lie that disagrees with scripture

III. Hearing and believing the Word will absolutely change the course of our life; It will produce victories, breakthroughs and great turn arounds in very dark times and in hopeless situations

- *Mk5:25-A certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, ²⁶And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse ²⁷When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, If I may touch but his clothes I shall be whole. ²⁹ And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. ³⁰ And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that **virtue had gone out of him**, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? ³¹ And his disciples said unto him, You see the multitude thronging you, and sayest thou, Who touched me? ³²He looked round about to see her that had done this thing. ³³ The woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.³⁴And he said unto her, Daughter, **thy faith hath made thee whole**; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*

A. God by His spirit put the spotlight on her faith, on what she believed-Jesus only said what the Father told him to say-He was directed by the Spirit of God to speak words that put the focus and spotlight on her faith

1. Why did God put the focus on her faith?-Not so that she could take credit for the miracle or to give her the glory, but to reveal to all men for all time the importance and power of what you believe
2. Religion tries to move the spotlight off of faith and put it on other things-If in seeing miracles happen Jesus puts the spotlight and focus on faith should we put it on something else?

B. If her faith made her whole, would she have been made whole without faith-If she would have heard of Jesus and not believed and stayed home would she have been healed anyway?

1. Would Jairus' daughter have been healed anyway?-*Lk8:50-Fear not, believe only and she shall be made whole*

C. Her situation shifted when what she believed changed

1. When she heard-This is important because this is how faith/belief comes-Rm10:17; She can't believe to be healed by Jesus without hearing about him
2. What must she have heard about Jesus?
 - a. She said if I may touch but his clothes I shall be made whole-That's what she believes; There's expectation, confidence, conviction; In this there's no question about his will to heal or his power to heal
 - b. She must have heard: 1) He is a healer 2) There's nothing in can't heal 3) He turns no one away

3. When she heard she chose to believe-She could have heard and rejected this and believed something else
4. Faith came changed the course of her life-By hearing something she never heard before she was able to believe something she never believed before and experience something she never had before
5. Hearing the Word and believing will change the course of your life
6. The power of God flows in the direction of faith-Faith conducts the power of God
 - a. The power of God is as real as electricity and there are things that will not conduct the power of God
 - b. **Electricity Note:** *Conductors have a very low resistance to electrical current while insulators have a very high resistance to electrical current. Materials with low resistance let electricity flow easily. Resistance is a term that describes the forces that oppose the flow of electron current in a conductor. When the resistance is high the only way to get electricity to flow through it is to turn up the voltage and too much voltage can cause the material to become hot, burn or even explode. A block of wood or rubber tire will have electricity flow to it, but not into it and not through it; A copper wire, it has low resistance and electricity flows to it and through it and into it*
 - c. Without a good conductor the power can't get to where it needs to be; The wrong conductor will actually stop the flow of electricity (Peter on water vs. Woman with issue of blood)

IV. The scripture makes this connection between what a person believes and what they experience, between faith and the outcome

- A. My faith affects the outcome, my faith affects my experience, I'm going to have what I believe-We see this on both the negative and the positive side
 1. The woman with the issue of blood-**Mk5:34**-*Thy faith has made thee whole*
 2. The centurion's servant-**Mt8:5**-*When Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, ⁶ And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. ⁷ And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. ⁸ The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. ⁹ For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. ¹⁰ When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. ¹³ And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and **as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.** And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*
 3. The two blind men-**Mt9:27**-*When Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying (speaking with a loud voice), and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy (help afflicted, aid) on us. ²⁸ And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, **Believe ye that I am able to do this?** They said unto him, Yea, Lord. ²⁹ Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it unto you.** ³⁰ And their eyes were opened*
 4. Blind Bartimaues-**Mk10:46**-*They came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. ⁴⁸ And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. ⁴⁹ And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. ⁵⁰ And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ And Jesus answered and said unto him, **What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?** The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. ⁵² And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; **thy faith hath made thee whole.** And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.*
 5. The sinner woman-**Lk7:50**-*Thy faith hath saved you; go in peace*
 6. The Leper that was cleansed and made whole-**Lk17:19**-*Arise, go your way: your faith has made thee whole.*
 7. Jairus' daughter-**Lk8:50**-*Fear not, believe only and she shall be made whole*
 8. Peter fell-Jesus laid his finger on the issue-**Mt14:31**-*O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*
 9. The disciples didn't get that boy delivered-**Mt17:19**-*Why could we not cast him out?...Because of your unbelief*
 10. The children of Israel didn't go in because of their unbelief-**Hb3:19**-*Entered not in because of unbelief*
- B. Don't want to minimize the importance of our own faith

1. The spirit of God is putting the spotlight on the individual's faith-He's making the point to us all these years later that your faith affects the outcome, what you believe is what you'll experience
2. According to Jesus what you believe and say you will have-**Mk11:23**-*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*
 - a. Mk5-She believes what she said will happen and we know that because she acted on our faith by pressing through that crowd
3. What you experience in your life is greatly affected by and directly connected to what you believe-Many like to pretend these things are all up to God
4. One of the worst things you can do is act like what you believe doesn't matter that much-Faith matters

V. There's life changing power in finding out what God said in His word and believing it

A. There is power in belief-**Mk9:23**-*If thou canst believe all things are possible to him that believes*

1. What canst you believe-You can only have faith in God to do something He said; because faith or belief comes by hearing-Rm10:17
2. Believe anything you want?-This isn't a license to believe anything you want and make it happen; Before you believe FOR you have to acknowledge where belief comes FROM
3. All things are possible to him that believes-Faith in God gives God access into your life and with God all things are possible; When we believe God and His Word things that are impossible become possible

B. There's power in Bible based faith-In being confident and convinced about something God said in His Word

1. Look at what faith in God can do-**Hb11:32-ERV**-*Do I need to give you more examples? I don't have enough time to tell you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. ³³All of them had great faith. And with that faith they defeated kingdoms. They did what was right, and God helped them in the ways he promised. With their faith some people closed the mouths of lions. ³⁴And some were able to stop blazing fires. Others escaped from being killed with swords. Some who were weak were made strong. They became powerful in battle and defeated other armies. ³⁵There were women who lost loved ones but got them back when they were raised from death. Others were tortured but refused to accept their freedom. They did this so that they could be raised from death to a better life.*

C. There need to be more emphasis on faith, on what we believe

1. Many have put the emphasis on prayer and praying, but prayer without faith doesn't work-**Mt21:22**-*Whatever things you shall ask in prayer, believing you shall receive; Mk11:24*-*Whatever things you desire when you pray believe you receive them and you shall have them*
2. Much of the body of Christ is praying without believing-They pray hoping, they pray wanting, they pray wishing, but must don't pray believing and confidently expecting
3. Faith is not desire or wanting something to happen-We're not wanting to something happen, hoping something happens, but rather we've heard from God and we're confident and convinced that what He said will come to pass in our lives
4. In the situations of life we must ask ourselves what do I believe? Not what am I praying? Not what do I want to happen? Not what do I hope happens? What am I believing based on God's word? We must be honest with ourselves-Do I believe that? Or do I just want it to happen?
5. Often we're too quick to pray and too slow to cultivate faith

D. It not only matters what you believe but it matters the level to which you believe-Faith that's weak is easily lost

1. Perplexed but not in despair-We don't know where to go, we don't know what to do and we don't have any resources, but we still have our faith-**2Co4:8**-*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed, we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed --- Perplexed-*

Don't know where to go, don't know what to do, without resources; Despair-To renounce all hope, a hopeless state, destitute of hope or expectation

2. You must endure-Hb10:32-*You endured a great fight of afflictions... Cast not away therefore your confidence which has a great recompense of reward. For you have need of patience, that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise (Endure/Patience-Under misfortunes and trials to hold fast to one's faith)*
3. If Satan get your faith, he can't keep you from victory-If I don't believe or lose my faith I stand no chance against life's battles-1Jn5:4
4. Never quit flying the plane-Never quit believing if you've heard from God

VI. Weakness of faith doesn't need to be ignored, it needs to be addressed (Ex: I'm so worried pray for me- But will you address weak faith?)

- A. Mental ascent or faith-You can see something in the Bible and acknowledge the fact that it's true but your faith be low; You're not saying the Bible's not true, but you're saying your confidence is low
- B. When faith is low there are very real, telltale signs of it
 1. Jesus correlates faith being little with the presence of worry-Mt6:28-*Why do you worry for raiment? 30 If God so clothe the grass of the field which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven shall he not much more clothe you, o ye of little faith*
 2. Jesus correlated fear with a lack of faith-Mk4:40-*Why are you so fearful? How is that you have no faith*
 3. We see lack of faith correlated with sadness-1Pt1:8-*Whom having not seen, you love; in whom though now you see him not, yet believing you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory*
 4. There's sadness and anxiety in unbelief, but joy and peace in believing-Rm15:13-*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing*
 5. Upset, angry, tense are signs of unbelief-Faith rests-Hb4:3-*We which have believed do enter into rest*
- C. How you address weak faith
 1. Acknowledge I don't believe this the way I should
 2. This unbelief (in whatever form it shows up) is not okay
 3. Settle it: The source is credible, The Bible is true, God cannot lie
 4. Make a decision: Choose to believe
 5. Exercise: Every time anything tries to contradict that word choose to believe that word; Whether it be a negative thought, a negative feeling, your own understanding, what you see – Choose to believe
 6. Feed: Faith cometh