

OUR SOURCE & SHIELD

Unbelief Is Unacceptable

I. There are levels of faith or degrees of strength when it comes to faith—God expects us to be strong in faith

- A. There are levels of faith-In looking at scriptures we come to this spiritual truth: there are levels of faith; A person can be weak in faith, a person can be strong in faith, a person can have a lot of faith, a person can be lacking faith; We are not all strong in faith, we are not all at the same level of faith and the level of your faith can even vary depending on the situation you face
1. There's weak faith and strong faith-**Rm4:19**-*Being not weak (feeble, without strength) in faith he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred year old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not about the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God*
 2. There's little faith and great faith-**Mt8:10**-*When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great (so much, large, quantity) faith, no, not in Israel; **Mt14:31**-O thou of little faith (lacking confidence, trusting too little), wherefore did you doubt*
 - a. Great faith produced a miracle, little faith led to failure-Which kind of faith are we after?
- B. Can you find weakness of faith amongst the followers of Jesus?-You can find weakness of faith in the lives of believers and we don't need to be offended by that reality, we need to get involved in the laws that govern the growth and increase of our faith
1. No faith, little faith, unbelief-**Mk4:40**-*And he said unto them, why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?; **Mt17:19**-Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief; **Mt14:31**-Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him and said unto him O thou of little faith, wherefor didst thou doubt?; **Mk16:14**-He appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief (weakness of faith) and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen*
 2. Are you saying there's something wrong with my faith?-According Jesus has their could be-Mt14-Jesus asked Peter, why did you doubt (Are you saying there's something wrong with my faith Jesus?); Mt17-Why couldn't we cast him out. Because of your unbelief. Are you saying there's something wrong with our faith?
 3. We can lack faith and our lack of faith can hinder God in our lives-Many Christians are offended by the idea that their faith could be lacking and that their lack of faith could hinder God in their lives and yet these things are all over the Bible (Mt14-Peter fell, Mt13-No hometown miracles, Hb3-No promise land)
- C. Bad Christian vs. spiritual law-Being weak in faith doesn't make you a bad Christian it just means you haven't got involved in the laws that govern the increase of faith (maybe for lack of knowledge or for lack of diligence)
1. You don't get to a place of unbelief alone-We have an adversary-**1Tim6:12**-*Fight the good fight of faith*
 2. Worry, fear, unbelief comes to us all-Don't feel bad for having worry, fear or unbelief trying to come on you
 3. Unbelief is not okay-It never will be okay
 4. Unbelief is your fault-Being overtaken by fear, worry, unbelief is entirely your fault and you don't have to be

II. If your faith is going to increase you first must come to the place where unbelief is unacceptable to you

- A. You've been commanded by the head of the church to have faith in God-He didn't tell you to try, he told you to do it; Anything less is unacceptable-**Mk11:22**-*Have faith in God; **Jn14:1**- You believe in God and believe in my also; **1Jn3:23**-This is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his son Jesus Christ*
1. Have faith in God is as strong and as real to me as *thou shalt not steal*; Trying isn't acceptable on either

- B. God's expectation for us is that we would be strong in faith-**Hb10:23**-*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; **Js1:6**-Let him ask in faith nothing wavering; **Mt21:21**-If you have faith and doubt not, you shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if you shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done*
- C. Jesus was not understanding and acceptant of unbelief-He'll help you get out of it, but he won't coddle you in it
1. He upbraided them or their unbelief-**Mk16:14**-*He appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided (reprove with severity) them with their unbelief (weakness of faith); **NIRV**-Spoke firmly; **MSG**-Too them to task most severely*
 2. Jesus corrected Thomas in front of everybody for his unbelief; He didn't say try, He didn't compliment him first, He was forward and firm-**Jn20:25**-*Be not faithless; **GNT**-Stop your doubting and believe*
- D. God expects us to take His word over everything else-Over wind, storm, virus, famine, natural understanding
1. Jesus corrected Peter in front of everybody-He's pulling him out of the water and correcting him at the same time; Peter could have made excuses and when he got done Jesus would have said, "Yes Peter by I told you to come. You had my word."-**YL**-*Jesus having stretched forth the hand, laid hold of him and saith to him, "Little faith! For what didst thou waver?"*
 2. Jesus corrected his disciples about their unbelief-They could have said, "It was a hurricane, the boat was filling up with water," and when they got done Jesus would have said, "Yes but I said we were going to the other side. I gave you my word." **Mk4:40**-*Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?*
- E. Unbelief has to become unacceptable to you-You have to come to the reality that *I'm supposed to be strong in faith and I will not tolerate unbelief of any kind*
1. If you're in the business of justifying your weakness of faith you'll never be strong in faith-We all doubt, waver, worry and God understands, we're just human
 2. Confront your unbelief-Ask the question: Is that true?