

UNBELIEF COUNTERACTS FAITH

LESSON 23 – OUTLINE

- I. Just because you understand that you already have the faith of God doesn't mean it will automatically produce victory in your life.
 - A. Your unbelief will counterbalance and short-circuit that faith until you get rid of it.
 - B. Your problem isn't a lack of faith but rather too much unbelief.
- II. The father had brought his boy to the disciples first, but they weren't able to cast the demon out (Mark 9:17-22).

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.

MATTHEW 17:14-17

- A. Jesus was not pleased!

O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

MATTHEW 17:17

- B. This is important because there aren't very many people operating in the supernatural power of God in the body of Christ today.
- C. Jesus' response to the disciples is the same for us today.
- D. God's answers are in the Word and the church.
- III. Not only did they already have all the power they needed to see that demonized boy set free; they had prior success in using it.

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?

MATTHEW 17:18-19

And when he [Jesus] had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

MATTHEW 10:1, BRACKETS AND EMPHASIS MINE

And they [the disciples previously] cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.

MARK 6:13, BRACKETS MINE

- A. These were believers who had seen God's power flow through them before to heal the sick and cast out devils.
 - B. They knew it was God's will and that He had already given them the power.
 - C. Yet they exercised their faith, acted on it, and spoke to the mountain but still didn't see the desired results.
- IV. Many people mistakenly think that they can't have both unbelief and faith at the same time.

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief...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.

MATTHEW 17:20, EMPHASIS MINE

- A. It's possible to be in faith and have doubt in your heart at the same time!

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.

MARK 11:23, EMPHASIS MINE

- B. The reason Jesus told Jairus to only believe is because you can believe and disbelieve at the same time!

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

MARK 5:36

- C. Jesus told the father of the lunatic boy who needed deliverance, *"If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth"* (Mark 9:23).

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

MARK 9:24

- D. According to God's Word, you can have a true faith—that under normal circumstances would bring about the desired deliverance—but still not see it produce the right results.
- E. The problem isn't an absence of faith, but the presence of unbelief.
- V. Faith and unbelief are opposing forces.
 - A. Unbelief counteracts your faith.
 - B. Instead of trying to get more and more faith, you need to deal with the unbelief that is counterbalancing it.
 - C. That's how you get your faith to work!
- VI. Your faith is sufficient.
 - A. The problem is unbelief countering your faith and causing a net effect of zero.
 - B. Unbelief is subtle—many people don't recognize it.
 - C. As a born-again Christian, your God-given supernatural faith is more than enough to accomplish anything you need—as long as there isn't any unbelief counteracting it.

LESSON 23 – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The religious doctrine commonly referred to as “the sovereignty of God” is a real faith killer. It misrepresents the Lord and renders people passive. My message “The Sovereignty of God” soundly debunks it.

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LESSON 23 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. According to Matthew 17:14-17, who had the man brought his son to before?
2. Could the disciples cure him?
3. How did Jesus then describe that generation?
4. According to Mark 9:17-22, how did the man address Jesus?
5. What had that dumb spirit been doing to the boy?
 - A. Takes him
 - B. Tears him
 - C. Causes him to foam at the mouth
 - D. Causes him to gnash his teeth
 - E. Causes him to pine away
 - F. All of the above
 - G. None of the above
6. What did the man ask the disciples to do?
7. What did the man ask Jesus?
8. According to Matthew 17:18-19, whom did Jesus rebuke?
9. What did the devil (demon) then do?
10. What happened to the child?
11. According to Matthew 10:1, what had Jesus already given the disciples?
 - A. Power to cast out unclean spirits
 - B. Fear and loathing
 - C. Power to heal all manner of sickness and disease
 - D. All of the above
 - E. Both A. and C.
12. According to Mark 6:13, what did the disciples cast out?
13. According to John 5:14, what did Jesus tell the man who had been made whole?
14. According to Matthew 17:20, why could the disciples not cast the demon out?
15. According to Luke 17:5-6, what did the apostles ask Jesus to increase?
16. What could faith as a mustard seed command to be plucked up by the root and be planted in the sea?

17. Mark 11:23 reveals that we should not doubt in our what?
18. According to Mark 5:36, when did Jesus speak to the ruler of the synagogue?
19. According to Mark 9:23-24, all things are possible to whom?
20. The father said, "*Lord, I believe; help thou mine _____.*"

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LESSON 23 – SCRIPTURES

MATTHEW 17:14-20

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.

MARK 9:17-24

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.

MATTHEW 10:1

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

MARK 6:13

And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

JOHN 5:14

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

LUKE 17:5-6

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. [6] And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

MARK 11:23

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.

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.