

Faith Negated

Lesson 13 – Outline

- I. Not long after the first time God used me to raise someone from the dead, I was excited.
 - A. As I was holding a service in Omaha, Nebraska, there was a man sitting in a wheelchair.
 - B. So I went over to him, grabbed him by the hand, and declared, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”
 - C. He came up, over, and then fell flat on his face.
 - D. When that happened, you could hear the gasps and groans of unbelief and shock from the people.
 - E. I felt embarrassed and humiliated.
 - F. What confused me was that I knew I had faith.
 - G. The Lord showed me, “Andrew, you did have faith, but you also had unbelief.”
 - H. When the people responded in shock and I panicked, that was unbelief. I was more concerned about what other people said than I was about what God had to say.

How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

John 5:44

- II. God began to reveal this truth to me while I was reading a book about Smith Wigglesworth.
 - A. The book said Smith was often criticized as being harsh and hard.
 - B. The difference between Smith and me wasn't that he had more faith; he had less sensitivity to people's criticism. He was hardened toward what other people thought.
 - C. It was that he had less unbelief.
- III. The key to the Christian life isn't learning how to develop huge faith; it's learning how to decrease the amount of unbelief in our lives.
 - A. Most Christians will spend an extra hour a day in the Word trying to build their faith. But then they wash it down with two or three hours' worth of “As the Stomach Turns” on television and reading through all the bad news in the newspaper.
 - B. They'll allow all the sewage from the world to flow through them—thoughts, attitudes, and concepts that are completely contrary to God's Word—and then wonder why their faith isn't working.

- IV. One day Lester Sumrall knocked on Smith Wigglesworth's door.
 - A. Smith told him he could come in, but the newspaper under his arm had to stay outside.
 - B. Smith never read the newspaper and refused for one to be brought into his house.
 - C. I believe that over Smith's thirty-five-year ministry, he probably missed a dozen or so good things from newspapers that he could have used in his sermons.
 - D. But it's certain he missed thousands of bad things that would have opened the door to unbelief.
 - E. If you're going to go overboard, that's the side to do it on.
- V. Consider how Abraham believed God (Rom. 4:18-21).
 - A. This passage of Scripture reveals that Abraham wasn't weak in faith, **"because he considered not his own body now dead."**
 - B. Abraham simply didn't consider anything that was contrary to what God had said.
- VI. If Abraham's and Sarah's minds had been full of thoughts of the country they had left behind in obedience to God, they would have been tempted to return (Heb. 11:15).
 - A. In other words, your temptation is linked to what you think.
 - B. Therefore, you cannot be tempted with unbelief unless you think thoughts of unbelief.
 - C. You need to quit listening to everyone else and all of their unbelief.
 - D. You need to stop considering the negativism, cynicism, and anti-God/anti-Christ sentiment of this world.
 - E. If you didn't listen to those thoughts, you wouldn't be tempted to disbelieve God.

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Lesson 13 – Discipleship Questions

1. Read James 2:16. It profits to give someone the things _____ for the body.
2. According to John 5:44, it's better to seek the honor that comes from _____.
 - A. People.
 - B. God.
 - C. The pastor.
 - D. All of the above.
 - E. None of the above.
3. Read Romans 12:3. What was given to Paul?
4. How are we not to think of ourselves?
5. According to Romans 10:17, does faith come by hearing just anything?
6. What do we have to hear before we can have faith?
7. Read Romans 4:18-21. Abraham didn't stagger at _____ through unbelief.
8. How persuaded was Abraham that He that had promised was also able to perform?
9. According to Hebrews 11:15, if they had been mindful of the country they came from, what would they have had?

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Lesson 13 – Scriptures

James 2:16

And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

John 5:44

How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

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.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 4:18-21

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. [19] And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: [20] He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; [21] And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Hebrews 11:15

And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.