

“So That”
Situations
Part III

Week One...

You have heard me say this for years....

EVERYTHING that occurs in your life is **GOD ARRANGED OR GOD ALLOWED**

God allows/arranges catastrophes {Katrina, Rita, George Floyd...etc.....}

SO THAT SITUATIONS

God is Sovereign and he allows, arranges, and orchestrates certain circumstances in life to occur to give us "SO THAT SITUATIONS". He uses these situations for A GREATER PURPOSE!!!

James 1:2-4 (NKJV)

2 My brethren, **count it all joy** when you fall into various trials,

3 **knowing** that **the testing of your faith produces patience.**

4 But let patience have its perfect work,

SO THAT you may be **PERFECT AND COMPLETE, LACKING NOTHING.**

When You Face A Trial/Test in your life....

See it as a "SO THAT SITUATION"

Understanding This.... Changes Your Perspective

Last Week...

We examined the Book of John and discovered that

GOD ARRANGED OR GOD ALLOWED SITUATIONS

So That

WE WILL BELIEVE

Throughout the Book of John, we saw the phrase, “and many believed because of...”

Because of the Miracles...

Because of the Teachings...

Because of the Blessings...

Because of the Healings...

It is EASIER to BELIEVE BECAUSE OF....

THE CHALLENGE is to BELIEVE IN SPITE OF....

In Spite of Not Seeing Results

In Spite of Not Getting the Breakthrough...

In Spite of Changing and Challenging Circumstances...

*Will You **CONTINUE TO BELIEVE???***

Introduction

Many People **BELIEVE GOD ENOUGH** to **COME TO HIM...**
BUT THEY STRUGGLE To **CONTINUE/KEEP BELIEVING**

All of us have **STARTED OUT BELIEVING** REAL STRONG for something,
only to grow **discouraged** or **distracted over TIME** because we don't see **RESULTS...**

At one point, we were **ON FIRE** for the things of God... **We prayed, we believed, we trusted**
and **we even rejoiced in advance** **THAT IT WOULD COME TO PASS...**

But days, weeks, months, maybe even years went by **without SEEING any results...**
In fact, sometimes our situation got worse.

Circumstances will always **CHALLENGE** us to **KEEP BELIEVING**
We must realize, God has not equipped us with only **START-UP FAITH...** but **SUSTAINING FAITH**

We must **KEEP BELIEVING....**
In order to **SEE RESULTS**, our **CHALLENGE** is to **KEEP BELIEVING...**

Key Scripture

Mark 9:14-29 (NASB)

14 When they came back to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and **some scribes arguing with them**. 15 Immediately, when the entire crowd saw Him, they were amazed and began running up to greet Him.

16 And He asked them, "**What are you discussing with them?**" 17 And one of the crowd answered Him, "Teacher, **I BROUGHT YOU, MY SON**, possessed with a spirit which makes him mute; 18 and whenever it seizes him, it slams him to the ground and he foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth and stiffens out.

I TOLD YOUR DISCIPLES TO CAST IT OUT, AND THEY COULD NOT DO IT."

19 And He answered* them and said*, "**O UNBELIEVING GENERATION**, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!" 20 They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth.

21 And He asked his father, "**How long has this been happening to him?**" And he said, "**From childhood**.

22 "It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him.

BUT IF YOU CAN DO ANYTHING, TAKE PITY ON US AND HELP US!"

23 And Jesus said to him, "**'IF YOU CAN?'** **All things are possible to him who believes.**" 24 Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "**I DO BELIEVE; HELP MY UNBELIEF.**" 25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and mute spirit, I **command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.**" 26 After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the

boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, "He is dead!"

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up.

What Hinders Consistent Believing

Many of us can IDENTIFY with this father who had **ENOUGH FAITH TO COME TO CHRIST**
For What We Needed....

Mark 9:17 (NLT)

17 One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him.

Circumstances Cause Us To Come....

Then something happens.....

Circumstances Challenge Us To Continue....

Mark 5:22-23 (NLT)

22 Then a leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, arrived. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet,
23 pleading fervently with him. "My little daughter is dying," he said.

"Please come and lay your hands on her; heal her so she can live."

Mark 5:35-36 (NASB)

35 While He was still speaking, THEY CAME from the house of the synagogue official, saying, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?" 36 But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid any longer, ONLY BELIEVE."

Matthew 15:22-23 (NIV)

22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession." 23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

What Hinders Consistent Believing

Hindrance #1 ~ The Impact Of The Followers' Failure

Mark 9:17-18 (NLT)

17 One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, “**Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him.** He is possessed by an evil spirit that won’t let him talk. 18 And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. **So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, BUT THEY COULDN’T DO IT.**”

We Must Be Mindful of Our Impact

We are not to become a stumbling to others. We must guard our lips, our lifestyle, and our loyalty. Too Often our Behavior and Barrenness {lack of productivity} have an impact on the belief of others

Matthew 10:1 (NKJV)

1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, **He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.**

BUT THEY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING

Understand Your Impact

Matthew 5:13 (NKJV)

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? **IT IS THEN GOOD FOR NOTHING** but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

What Hinders Consistent Believing

Hindrance #1 ~ The Impact Of The Followers' Failure

So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, **BUT THEY COULDN'T DO IT.**"

The Followers' Lack of Power Caused Him To Limit His Belief In Christ...

Mark 9:21-24 (ESV)

21 And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.
22 And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him. **BUT IF YOU CAN DO ANYTHING,**
have compassion on us and help us." 23 And Jesus said to him, " **'IF YOU CAN'!**
All things are possible FOR THE ONE WHO BELIEVES."

Notice the Regression In Belief...

I came **SO THAT YOU COULD HEAL....**
But Because Of What I Have Just Witnessed....
IF YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.... HELP US...

We cannot allow the lack of other's power to keep us from believing in the **ONE WHO HAS ALL POWER!!!**
It is not a matter of **HIS CAPABILITY** – it is a matter of **OUR ABILITY TO BELIEVE**

Matthew 9:28 (ESV)

28 When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them,
"DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM ABLE TO DO THIS?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."

Yes, His Followers Failed But At The End of the Day....

"NOW UNTO HIM, WHO IS ABLE TO DO EXCEEDINGLY, ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL, WE CAN ASK OR THINK..."

What Hinders Consistent Believing

Hindrance #2 ~ The Length and Load Of The Burden Affects Our Belief

Mark 9:21-22 (ESV)

21 And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “**FROM CHILDHOOD.**
22 **And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him.**

The Father has experienced this pain for quite some time...

There was a tremendous burden watching his son constantly under attack with no help or no hope...

Constant Pain and A Continuous Predicament Can Cause Us To Waver in our Belief

Luke 7:11-20 (ESV)

11 Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him.
12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” 14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” 15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. 16 Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!”

17 **And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.** 18 **The disciples of John reported all these things to him.** And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “**ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME, OR SHALL WE LOOK FOR ANOTHER?**”

John The Baptist **HAD AN EXPECTATION** That Did Not Match What **HE WAS EXPERIENCING...**
Over **TIME**, **the experiences impact the expectation...** I Believe but **I AM NOT EXPECTING** anything to happen

What Hinders Consistent Believing

Hindrance #2 ~ The Length and Load Of The Burden Affects Our Belief

How Do You Handle This

1) Perseverance

Mark 5:25-28 (NLT)

25 A woman in the crowd had *suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding.*

26 *She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse.*

27 *She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe.*

28 **FOR SHE THOUGHT TO HERSELF**, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed."

She Didn't Stop Believing... She Kept Pushing

2) Purpose and Perspective

Mark 9:24 (NIV)

24 Immediately *the boy's father exclaimed*, "I do believe; **HELP ME OVERCOME MY UNBELIEF!**"

For years, everyone knew **THE BOY NEEDED HELP...** {OUTWARD EVIDENCE}

Jesus **ALLOWED THE SICKNESS, SO THAT, WHAT WAS INTERNAL COULD BE HEALED!!!**

What Hinders Consistent Believing

Hindrance #3 ~ Forsaking The Assembly Among Believers

John 20:19-29 (NIV)

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "PEACE BE WITH YOU!"

20 After he said this, HE SHOWED THEM HIS HANDS AND SIDE. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.

24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, WAS NOT WITH THE DISCIPLES WHEN JESUS CAME.

25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I WILL NOT BELIEVE IT."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house AGAIN, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE."

28 Thomas said to him, "MY LORD AND MY GOD!"

1) There Are Just Some Things That Happen IN PLACES THAT GOD HAS ASSIGNED FOR BELIEVERS

In THAT PLACE, they all experienced HIS POWER AND HIS PRESENCE

What Hinders Consistent Believing

Hindrance #3 ~ Forsaking The Assembly Among Believers

*Thomas had **HEARD** the Word....But It Was **Not Enough***

Matthew 16:21 (NKJV)

*21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and **be raised the third day.***

Matthew 17:22-23 (NKJV)

*22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill Him, and **the third day He will be raised up.**"*

Matthew 20:17-19 (NKJV)

*17 Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, 18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. **And the third day He will rise again.**"*

*Despite **HEARING THE WORD**, we struggle to **CONTINUE** to **BELIEVE** without seeing evidence....*

*God shows up in the **RIGHT PLACE** at **THE RIGHT TIME***

To Strengthen our Belief

What Hinders Consistent Believing

Hindrance #1 ~ The Impact Of The Followers' Failure

Hindrance #2 ~ The Length and Load Of The Burden Affects Our Belief

Hindrance #3 ~ Forsaking The Assembly Among Believers

Everything Is
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