

I Believe

Psalm 27:13-14

Week One We Examined

Principle #1 ~ Believe The Divine Providence of God

Principle #2 ~ Do Not Let FEAR Alter What You Believe

Principle #3 ~ There Are Areas Where I Believe.... But Other Areas....Not So Much...

Principle # 4 ~ Your Relationship Doesn't Give You YOUR DESIRED RESULTS

Principle #5 ~ What We KNOW vs. What WE NEED?

Principle #6 ~ Monitor Your Company, That Affects What You Believe

*Principle #7 ~ In The Midst Of Disappointment,
We Need REASSURANCE of Who and What We Believe*

Last Week We Discussed ~ The Benefits Of Believing

Romans 15:13 (NKJV)

*13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace **IN BELIEVING**,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

The Source ~ God of All Hope

The Supply ~ Fill Us

The Substance ~ With Joy and Peace

The Strength/Stability ~ We can Abound in Hope

The Sustainer ~ By The Power Of Holy Spirit

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 responsibility is to **KEEP BELIEVING...**

Psalm 27:13-14 (KJV)

13 I had fainted, **unless I had BELIEVED TO SEE** the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
14 **Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.**

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David, a man after God's own heart is on the verge of *giving up* and *throwing in the towel*...
He is facing some challenges that are causing him to *lose courage* and *stop believing*...

BUT

David **REGAINS** his confidence that **HE WOULD OVERCOME** any obstacle
and **EXPERIENCE THE LORD'S GOODNESS**

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

28 And we know that *in all things* God works **FOR THE GOOD** of those who love him,
who have been called according to his purpose.

If we **KNOW THIS**.... THEN WE **MUST BELIEVE WE WILL SEE THIS**...

Although circumstances shook his confidence... It could not break his confidence
David was **CONFIDENT** he would **SEE** the goodness of the Lord...

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Challenge #1 ~ I Believe What God Says... But I lose Confidence in what I See....

How do you handle life when *what God promised*, does not *align with your predicament*

How do you handle life *when what God said*, does not *align with your situation*

Biblical Illustration

Matthew 14:26-31 (NLT)

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" 27 But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" 28 Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." 29 "YES, COME," Jesus said. *So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.* 30 But when *HE SAW THE STRONG WIND AND THE WAVES*, he was terrified and *began to sink*. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. 31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "WHY DID YOU DOUBT ME?"

The Word Said "COME" ~ He started to COME {OBEY}....

But what he *SAW* made him *doubt*, get *distracted*, become *defeated*....

Didn't seem like much.... But a little doubt could *LEAD to DEFEAT & DISCOURAGEMENT*

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Challenge #1 ~ I Believe What God Says... But I lose Confidence in what I See....

We must keep believing **DESPITE WHAT WE SEE**

Deaths ~ Disease ~ Division ~ Discord ~ Debt

Stay Focused On Him

Psalm 121:1-2 (NKJV)

1 A song of Ascents. *I will lift up my eyes to the hills--* From whence comes my help?

2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)

2 *Looking unto Jesus*, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

How To Regain Confidence

Began to sink... He Cried out to Jesus ~

Revelation 2:4-5 (NIV)

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. 5 *Remember* the height from which you have fallen! *Repent and do the things you did at first...*

Psalm 27:13-14 (KJV)

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Challenge #2 ~ I Become So Dependent on Seeing....That I Stop Believing

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

1 **NOW FAITH IS** the substance of things hoped for, **THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN.**

There is the danger of **putting God to the test of SIGHT**, that we **begin to lose TRUST...**

The World has a saying.... **"Seeing is Believing"**

But as Believers, we **BELIEVE EVEN WHEN WE DON'T SEE IT**

Biblical Illustration

John 20:24-29 (NKJV)

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "**We have seen the Lord.**" So he said to them, "**Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.**" 26 **And after eight days** His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them.

Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. **Do not be unbelieving, but believing.**" 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, **because you have seen Me, you have believed.**

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED."

Challenge #2 ~ I Become So Dependent on Seeing...That I Stop Believing

*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 PROMISES**, we struggle to **CONTINUE** to **BELIEVE** without seeing evidence...*

*In these moments, we need to **remember WHAT WE HE SAID**
and **remember WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN**...*

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WAIT, I SAY, ON THE LORD.

Challenge #3 ~ Can You **Keep Believing**... As You **Trust God's Timing**

God does things **ON SCHEDULE**....Just not **YOUR SCHEDULE**

Nothing the enemy does can obstruct the plan of God for your life

When God gives **A PROMISE**, it will **COME TO PASS**... Regardless of what it Looks like....

Luke 8:41-46 (NIV)

41 Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, **CAME AND FELL AT JESUS' FEET**, pleading with him to **come to his house** 42 because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, **was dying**. **As Jesus was on his way**, the crowds almost crushed him. 43 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. 44 She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. 45 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." 46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

Jairus **BELIEVED** that Jesus could heal so he decided to **COME**...
But in the midst of **HIS DELIVERANCE** he experienced **A DELAY**...
Will you **STILL BELIEVE**, when the deliverance seems delayed....

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WAIT, I SAY, ON THE LORD.

Challenge #3 ~ Can You Keep Believing... As You Trust God's Timing

Luke 8:47-50 (NIV)

47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and **fell at his feet**. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how **she had been instantly healed**.

48 Then he said to her, "Daughter, **YOUR FAITH HAS HEALED YOU. GO IN PEACE.**"

49 While **JESUS WAS STILL SPEAKING**, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler.
"YOUR DAUGHTER IS DEAD," he said. **"Don't bother the teacher any more."**

50 Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; **JUST BELIEVE**, and **SHE WILL BE HEALED.**"

"Keep Believing While You Wait"

- Monitor **What You See** in the Life of Other Believers
- Evaluate What **They Say** Compared To What **He Said**

If you have enough **Faith to Come...** You have the **Faith to Continue**
Keep Believing While You Trust God's Timing

Trust God's Timing ~ Trust God's Promises

Why the Delay?

1. To Develop Perseverance In Us {Keep Believing Training}
2. To Ensure That God Gets The Glory {Nobody But God Testimony}
3. To Deepen Our Trust In God {Can't have Supernatural Favor with Shallow Faith}

Romans 4:18-21 (NLT)

18 Even *when there was no reason for hope*, Abraham kept hoping—believing that *he would become the father of many nations*. For God had *said to him*, “That’s how many descendants you will have!”

19 And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, *even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb.*

20 Abraham never wavered in **BELIEVING GOD’S PROMISE**. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. 21 He was fully convinced that God *is able to do* whatever he promises.

Remember This....

Challenge #1 ~ I Believe What God Says... But I lose Confidence in what I See....

Challenge #2 ~ I Become So Dependent on Seeing....That I Stop Believing

Challenge #3 ~ Can You Keep Believing... As You Trust God's Timing

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