

THE SHORTCOMINGS OF FAITH

Session 6: Unbelief and Other Shortcomings to Consider

Pastor Dale Campbell

Recent Sessions:

- Making withdrawals where no deposits have been made.
- Being hesitant to speak your faith.
- Becoming distracted from what really matters—singlemindedness.
- Faith without works—the necessity of corresponding works.

I. THE SHORTCOMING OF UNBELIEF

There is a difference in unbelief and doubt. Doubt is uncertainty and wavering. Unbelief is a settled refusal to accept or embrace something specific.

A. The First Generation of Israelites

1. The first generation of Israelites refused to believe God for the Promised Land even after witnessing the many miracles He had performed on their behalf.

2. **Hebrews 3:8-12**

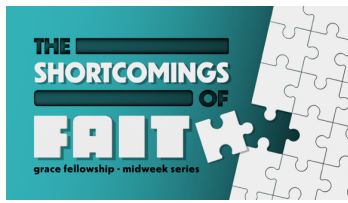
NKJV “Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore **I was grieved with that generation**, and said, **They do always err in their heart**; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart of unbelief**, in departing from the living God.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *The issue that kept Israel from receiving the promises of God was unbelief.*

3. **Hebrews 3:19**

NKJV “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

- They were prevented from entering.
- Could not gain access.
- Fell short of entering.



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B. Caleb and Joshua

1. While the majority missed out because of unbelief, Caleb and Joshua entered in by faith.
2. **Numbers 14:30**
NKJV “Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.”

C. Understanding Unbelief

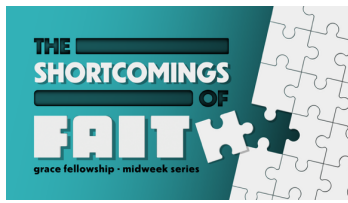
1. Unbelief is refusal to accept God’s Word.
2. It is being persuaded against what God has said.
3. It is a hardened heart.
4. It is rejecting or resisting truth despite evidence.
5. It is choosing not to believe.

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Doubt is a battle in the mind; unbelief is a decision of the heart.*

D. Scriptures on Unbelief

1. **John 12:37**
NKJV “But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him.”
2. **Psalm 78:32-33**
NKJV “In spite of this they still sinned, And did not believe in His wondrous works. Therefore their days He consumed in futility, And their years in fear.”

Another translation: “Their years were cut short!”



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3. Thomas

a. John 20:24-31

NKJV “Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.**’ 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!’ 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.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.’ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; **but these are written that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

b. John 20:25

TPT “Still unconvinced, Thomas replied, ‘There’s no way I’m going to believe this unless I personally see the wounds of the nails in his hands, touch them with my finger, and put my hand into the wound in his side where he was pierced.’”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Thomas’ faith was based upon natural things. It really wasn’t faith at all. Real faith is believing according to the Word not what we see or feel.*

E. Hearing and Believing Are Not the Same

1. You can hear the Word but remain unchanged by it!

a. Hebrews 4:2

NKJV “For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Our faith must be joined together with the Word of God in order to produce results.*



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2. Believing is a choice!
 - a. Believing the Word of God is a choice to trust and accept what God has said above circumstances, feelings, or natural reasoning.
 - b. To believe God's Word is to EXALT His Word above my feelings.
 - c. **John 1:12**
NKJV "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe** in His name..."
 - d. Receiving is connected to believing.
3. How do I believe?
 - a. Read and meditate on the Word with a heart determined to believe what God has said and to receive it as absolute truth above every circumstance and situation.

PASTOR'S NOTE: *As you find scriptures, say: "I believe this."*

- b. **2 Corinthians 1:20**
NKJV "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."

AMP "For as many as are the promises of God, in Christ they are [all answered] 'Yes.' So through Him we say our 'Amen' to the glory of God."

4. Choose to believe everything He says about:
 - Who you are.
 - Healing.
 - Finances and provision.
 - Your family.
 - Your future.
 - Protection.

II. OTHER SHORTCOMINGS TO CONSIDER

A. Offenses and Unforgiveness

1. Mark 11:25

NKJV "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."



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TPT “And whenever you stand praying, if you find that you carry something in your heart against another person, release him and forgive him so that your Father in heaven will also release you and forgive you of your faults. But if you will not release forgiveness, don’t expect your Father in heaven to release you from your misdeeds.”

2. Forgiveness: To send away; to take away; to release and let flow away.

3. **Ephesians 4:32**

NKJV “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Unforgiveness closes the heart to the flow of faith and can hinder our prayers from operating freely before God. Unforgiveness violates the law of love!*

4. Things forgiveness is **NOT**:

- a. Forgiveness is not excusing wrongdoing; it is releasing the offense to God.
- b. Forgiveness does not mean what happened was acceptable or justified.
- c. To forgive is not to pretend the offense never happened, but to refuse to hold the debt against the person.
- d. Biblical forgiveness is not excusing the act but choosing to walk in love and release resentment.
- e. You can forgive someone completely and still recognize that what they did was wrong.

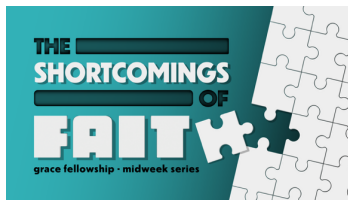
B. The Shortcoming of Lacking Patience (Endurance)

1. **Hebrews 6:12**

NKJV “...that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

NLT “Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God’s promises because of their faith and endurance.”

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Endurance keeps faith active!*



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2. Galatians 6:9

NKJV “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Berean Annotated Bible “Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

3. Faith must be engaged for the long haul—not short distance running!

C. The Shortcoming of Connecting More to the Mental / Physical Realm vs. the Spiritual Realm

1. John 6:63

NKJV “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.”

2. I must connect more to the things that build my spirit vs. those things that connect to my flesh. The faith answer is in the Spirit, not by natural means.

PASTOR'S NOTE: *The Word of God keeps me connected to the realm of the Spirit.*