

SESSION 8 – The Unbelief Factor

I. Review

A. We believe it is God's will to heal all because

1. The attitude of Jesus toward sickness and disease Acts 10:38
2. The Healing ministry of Jesus - He healed ALL
3. The delegated ministry of Jesus - to the 12 and the 70
4. The ministry of healing in the early church
5. God's original creation being disease free
6. God's re-action to sickness and disease from the beginning – I am the Lord that health thee – Ex 15:26
7. The types and shadows/ symbols of redemption in the Old testament
Passover – The serpent on the pole – The high priest atonement –
8. The message of Isaiah 53 – Jesus bore our sicknesses and carried our pain
9. The stripes of Jesus

B. LAST WEEK –Fear

- *Faith vs Fear*
- *Faith Grows – Fear Grows*
- *Our position is to RESIST fear*
- *Fear and Faith do not co-exist*
- *Fear will short-circuit faith*

II. THE UNBELIEF FACTOR

UNBELIEF IS THE CHIEF ENEMY OF FAITH

A. Unbelief Definition –

1. Unbelieving
2. Faithless
3. Disbelieving
4. To nullify faith –
5. The negative force that undoes faith

B. Unbelief in the ministry of Jesus

Matthew 13:53-58 ⁵³And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence. ⁵⁴And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? ⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? ⁵⁷And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. ⁵⁸And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

NIV - ⁵⁸And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Mark 6:6 ⁶And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went around about the villages, teaching.

JESUS DID NOT STAY WHERE UNBELIEF WAS PRESENT

Mark 9:17-29 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁷ 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 ofttimes 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.**

²⁵ When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

²⁶ And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

²⁸ And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

²⁹ And he said unto them, **This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.**

- **O Faithless Generation - O Unbelieving Generation**
- **If you can – denotes unbelief**
- **Jesus Response - If you can**

New Living Translation

“What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.”

- **I Believe, help my unbelief - unbelief and faith present at the same time.**
- **DISCIPLES – Why could we not cast him out?**

Matthew’s account –

Matthew 17:19-21 ¹⁹Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰And 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. ²¹**Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.**

- **THIS KIND OF UNBELIEF - Progressive departure from unbelief.**
- **What happened to cause them to get into unbelief?**
- **They had already been casting out ALL devils**

UNBELIEF HINDERED AUTHORITY, HEALING AND DELIVERANCE

III. DEALING WITH UNBELIEF

1. Unbelief comes through hearing, just as faith comes by healing.

- a. Building faith in God's word will drive out unbelief
- b. Spend more time on God's report than the report of others
- c. Do not expect to have faith while listening to unbelief

Discuss examples of listening to unbelief.

2. Unbelief always reasons and questions

- a. Jesus hometown – Isn't this the carpenter's son?
- b. Jesus friends and relatives – *Mark 3:20* When his friends hear of it, they went out to lay hold on him, for they said, He is beside himself.
- c. What kind of questions are you asking yourself?
 - Does healing really belong to everyone
 - Is it God's will to heal all?
 - Does all this faith stuff really work?
 - What about? (Job, Paul's thorn, others)

ALWAYS GUARD AGAINST REASONING!

Matthew 16:8 KJV "*Which* when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, **O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?**

REASON – To bring up different reasons in one's mind - to revolve – to consider