

### Do You Believe?

Well, this week, my wife and I, we had a bit of a disagreement over something and it's still unresolved. And so, I thought, you know, there's no better way to resolve a conflict than to bring it in front of a thousand people, and to help you guys decide. So, if you could, I would appreciate your help in determining who's right on this issue between my wife and myself. Here, here's the issue. Here's a picture of a shoe that someone showed me online this week. And it's interesting, uh, conflict that we're having because it's not a conflict over if the shoe looks cool or not, it's over what color the shoe is. So, how many of you, like me, see this shoe as gray and teal? Yeah, so look around, that's who's getting raptured. I feel pretty good about this crew.

Yeah. All I see is gray and teal. I'm not color-blind. How many of you see pink and white? Yeah, I don't, I don't know. That's my wife's claim. That's what she saw too. I don't know. It's just confusing to me. So I did some research. I'm like, man, I see gray and teal, where you guys see pink and I see gray and where you see white, I see teal. And, uh, so I did some research, I was like, man, how could we be seeing different things? What, what's actually the right way to view this? And, uh apparently, after doing some research, Vans does not make any shoes that are gray and teal.

So yeah, all you pink and white people are correct. But, it's just been in my head all week. I'm like, "man, how can two people see the exact same thing and come to a different conclusion?" Specifically, this picture, apparently because of the lighting it plays some tricks on you where some people, apparently a few people, see gray and teal and most of the people see how it is supposed to be. But, I've been thinking, "you know, how can two people look at the exact same thing and come to two different conclusions because it's like we're all looking at the same thing, but we're not seeing the same thing? How can two people look at the same thing and come to two different conclusions?"

That's what we're going to talk about this morning. We're going to be in a story in scripture where 12 men go and look at the same thing, but they come to two different conclusions. And, uh, a few weeks ago, well, we had planned out what we were going to preach on this Sunday, specifically that we were going to preach on whatever book in the bible reading plan we were going to be in this Sunday because we knew it's the new year. We know for many of you, you have made a New Year's resolution to read the Bible more. And we have a resource to help you read the Bible more and to understand the Bible more in depth.

It's called [thebiblereadingplan.org](http://thebiblereadingplan.org). Every single day there's a new chapter of scripture on there with a commentary written by someone in our church body to help you better understand scripture. So we decided we're going to preach on whatever book of the Bible we're going to be in on that Sunday. We just didn't know exactly what it would be.

So this, this week we sat down as a sermon team and, and we're like, "okay, we know we're in James right now, but we know we're not going to be in James on Sunday. So, what is it?" So we had to do some research. And, uh, the research came back saying that, that we're going to be in numbers. Which is great because all scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

So that's where we're going to be. Numbers 13 through 14 this morning. And for those of you who are already joining us in the Bible reading plan, this is just going to serve as a commercial to where we're going. And for those of you who are not in the Bible reading plan, this is going to serve as an invitation.

For you to join us and as you're opening up your Bibles, you might be opening up your Bibles and you're like, "I don't know where to open to", Numbers is the fourth book of the Bible. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and numbers before we start reading numbers 13. Let me give you some context on where we're at when we pick up on this story. Numbers 13 was about a year and a half after the exodus. So in the exodus, the people of God were enslaved in Egypt. And then God appeared to Moses and said, "I'm going to use you to bring my people up out of slavery and into freedom." So Moses goes to Pharaoh and says, "let my people go". And Pharaoh says, "no."

So God brings plague after plague, after plague upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians until Pharaoh says, fine, get out of here. And as they are leaving, uh, slavery. They come upon a sea, and once they're at the sea, they turn around and they see that Pharaoh and his armies are chasing after them because Pharaoh has changed his mind. In that moment, God splits the sea so that the Israelites can walk through on dry ground, and then he closes the sea so that the Egyptians drown. Right after that, and we actually just preached on this not too long ago, they're in the desert, and God miraculously provides manna for the people of God to eat.

Then, a few months later, they continue to travel across the desert, and where we pick up on this story, right here, is they are on the edge of the promised land. They are about to enter into the land that God had promised that he would give them. And in this moment, God appoints, er, Moses appoints twelve spies. One man from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. In Genesis, there's a man named Jacob who was renamed Israel. He had 12 sons, and Moses appoints one man from each of those descendants to go into the land to serve as a spy, to see what the land looked like, to see what those cities looked like, to see what the people looked like, and even to see what the fruit looked like, to see how they could overtake this land.

So he sends these 12 spies in and they spend 40 days covering every single piece of the land. They want to make sure that they have a detailed account to give to the people of God. To tell them who lives there, what's it look like, what grows there. In fact, in the verses that we're not going to read, it says that they cut off a vine of grapes. And the clusters of grapes were so large that they had to carry them back on poles. Which may seem like an exaggeration, but this is what the grapes look like in that region today (photo shown grapes that are size of baseballs). It is the, the perfect region for growing grapes. I, I, uh, read that, that the climate there is similar to the climate in California.

It's exact, it's the exact right climate for growing grapes. So it's huge clusters of grapes. They're carrying it back to the people on a pole. It even says they bring back pomegranates and figs. And, and after these 40 days of traveling across the promised land, they come back to the people of God with this report. And this is what they say in verse 26. **"They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole Israel, it's the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account."** (Numbers 13:26) **"We went into the land and to which you sent us and it does flow with milk and honey. Here it is, but The people who live there are powerful and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Enoch there. The Amalekites lived there in the Negev. The Hittites,**

**Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country. And the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.” (Numbers 13:27-33)**

So these spies go, this land is amazing. There's milk there, there's honey there, there's grapes there, there's pomegranates there, there's figs there. It's absolutely unbelievable. But! There's some really big, bad people who live there, and I don't think they want us to live there. So the people of God hear this report, and it just kind of stirs them up into a panic, and they start worrying, and start to think, hey, maybe we shouldn't go enter into this land.

And then it says this in verse 30, **“Then Caleb, who was also one of the spies, silenced the people before Moses, and said, We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” (Numbers 13:30)** Now the other spies hear that, and they're like, No, I do not want the rest of the people to believe this. So they start just making things up. This is what it says, verse 31. **“But the men who had gone up with him said, We can't attack those people. They are stronger than we are. And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored.” (Numbers 13:31)** They said, The land we explored devours those living in it. Not the people, but the land. It's too dangerous. It's going to kill you. **“All the people we saw there of great size,” (Numbers 13:33)** your, your, your translation might say they were giants. **“We saw the Nephilim there, the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim. And we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes. And we look the same to them.” (Numbers 13:33)** So these spies are going, “guys, trust us. You don't want to go there. Don't trust Caleb. The land is going to kill you. The people are going to kill you. That land is not best for you.” Now, how can it be that 12 men all saw the same land and came to different conclusions? 10 of them came back with the report saying, “this is really bad news.” 2 of them, Caleb and we're later going to see Joshua, came back saying, “you know, this is really, really good news.”

How can it be that all 12 of them saw the same fruit? They saw the same people. They saw the same cities. They saw the same terrain. And yet came to a different conclusion. Well, it's because they really weren't looking at the same thing. You see, 10 of them were just looking at a problem, two of them were just looking at a promise. 10 of them were looking at giants, two of them were looking at God, and this is how they came to two different conclusions, and point number one, this is the first thing we can learn. Who you trust changes how you perceive your problem. If your belief is in you, how you perceive your problems will be one way.

*1. Who you trust changes how you perceive your problem.*

If your belief is in God, how you perceive your problems will be another way. This is why you can see two people go through really the same exact difficulty and have two very different responses. Let's just say someone lost their job. You've probably seen someone go through that and be thrown into anxiety and self pity. And you've maybe seen someone go through that and be thrown into hope and confidence. Why is that? It's because one perspective is “I need to solve this problem.” The other perspective is “I can't wait to see what God does in this problem.” See, your belief changes the way you perceive your problems. And this is important for us to understand because all of us are going to have problems.

We're going to have health problems. We're going to have marriage problems. We're going to have child raising problems. We're going to have financial problems. We're going to have

roommate problems. We're going to have work problems. Problems are inevitable in your life. The right perception of those problems is not inevitable.

And for these 10 men, they came to the wrong conclusion. Let me show you what the wrong conclusion looked like. It looks like this in verse 33. **“After looking at the land, after seeing the really big people in the land.” (Numbers 13:33)** They said this, **“we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we look the same to them.” (Numbers 13:33)** “You see, in light of our problem, we look really, really small guys. We were there for 40 days. We went back to back with these people. We compared ourselves with these people and in comparison to them, we look like grasshoppers. If we enter into the land, they are going to ruin us. Now, really everything they said was true.”

The difficulty that they're describing is accurate. The cities were fortified. The people were strong. There were tremendous difficulties in this land. And yet they came to the wrong conclusion. Why? It's because they compared their problem with their power. And they should have been comparing their problem with God's power. Because in comparison to their problem, they seemed like grasshoppers, but in comparison to God's power, their problem seemed like grasshoppers. Because while they stood no chance against those armies, though, those armies stood no chance against God and where they went wrong is they thought this was their problem to solve, not God's problem to solve.

All the while, God had promised him, promised them what he was going to do. In fact, some of you maybe already read this, but the beginning of chapter 13, this is what God says to the people. Verse one, **“the Lord said to Moses. Send some men to explore the land of Canaan to see if you can overtake it on your own.” (Numbers 13:1)** And that's not what it says. It says, **“Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. The land's already yours. It's already been decided. I'm giving it to you. And you don't need to take up a vote on it. This land is yours.” (Numbers 13:1-3)** And the spies go, “Okay, we know that you said that. But But, but the Amalekites live there and the Hittites live there and the Canaanites live there and the Jebusites live there.”

And God's going, “yeah, I already told you that. In fact, look at what he told Moses in Exodus chapter three about the promised land.” He said, and **“I have promised to bring you up out of your misery into, in Egypt, into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.” (Exodus 3:17)**

I think God's looking at these spies and he's going, “guys, all you've done on your little secret covert mission is confirm what I already told you. You came back saying it's a land flowing with milk and honey. I already told you that you came back saying the Hittites, Amorites, Jebusites live there. I already told you that. But you also came back saying we will not overtake the land. I already told you that you would.” I think God's going, “all you've done is confirm most of what I've said. Why won't you, why won't you believe me with the rest of what I've said?” And this is where Caleb comes to a different conclusion than the tent.

Because he's going, “I have made a decision to trust God's promises more than my problem. I've come to the conclusion that I'm going to trust what God has said rather than what I see.” Because Caleb here, he says, “guys, I see the same problem as you. I'm not rejecting that

problem. I'm not ignoring that problem. The only difference is, I'm not ignoring God. Because all I know is that God has said that he's going to give us the land. I see all the reasons why we will not be able to overtake the land. But I've just made a decision to trust what God has said in spite of what I have seen." And that's what faith is.

Faith is acting like God is telling the truth. Faith is believing Him at His Word. Cause you see, there's really two ways of looking at this problem. The first is, "we are really, really small. They are really, really big. Therefore, we're gonna lose." The other option is "we are really, really small. They are really, really big. Therefore, God's about to do something amazing. I have no idea how we're going to win, but God said we're going to win. So I can't wait to sit back and see what he does" because you see point number one, who you trust changes how you perceive your problem.

1. *Who you trust changes how you perceive your problem.*

Okay, let's flip over to chapter 14. We just finished reading chapter 13. This is what it says in verse one of chapter 14. They've just received a bad report from the majority, a good report from the minority. Who are they gonna trust? It says this. **"That night, all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly said to them, if only we had died in Egypt, heard that one before, or in this wilderness, why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword?" Numbers (14:1)**

That is an offensive statement to God. That is an accusation against God's character. They're saying "God didn't bring us into this promised land to thrive. He's bringing us out here so that we might die. And not just so that we might die, but so that our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" And they said to each other, **"we should choose a leader and go back to Egypt. Then Moses and Aaron fell face down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. Joshua, son of Nun, and Caleb, son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes."** (Numbers 14:4-6)

This was a sign of grief in that time. And said to the entire Israelite assembly, **"The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land. If you notice the other tens report made no mention of God at all, but, but here, Joshua and Caleb say that God is going to bring us into a land flowing with milk and honey, and he will give it to us only. Do not rebel against the Lord and do not be afraid of the people of the land because we will devour them for their protection is gone. But the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."** (Numbers 14:8-9) But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Which sounds extreme, but what they're thinking is we are going to kill you guys before you kill us.

If we listen to what you are going to say, what you're saying, it's going to put us to death. So we're going to kill you before you kill us. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. The next verses describe how God becomes angry with the people. He goes, "how long will it take for you to trust me? What else do I need to do? I brought you out, out of slavery. I've split the seas. I provided for you in the desert. What else do I need to do

for you to believe me?” And here he says that there is going to be a consequence for their unbelief. Skipping ahead to verse 19, Moses goes to God in response and says, **“God, in accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.”** (Numbers 14:19)

The Lord replied, **“I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as sure as I live and as sure as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw my glory in the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times. Not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.”** (Numbers 14:19-23) And since they disbelieved God, they were sentenced to wander in the desert for 40 years. And not a single person who disbelieved God got to see the power of God as he brought them into the promised land. Which is point number two. Second thing we can learn in this passage is this.

*2. Disbelief will make you miss out on what God can do.*

You see, there is a consequence here to their unbelief since they didn't believe they missed out on what God wanted to do in their life. Now, it wasn't a missing out of like salvation. It doesn't mean they're not saved. It says here that God still forgave his people. So not necessarily missing out on eternity, but they are missing out on what God wanted to do in their life. He wanted to bring them into the promised land, but since they didn't believe that he would do it, They didn't get to see it. So if we are going to take this passage and apply it to our life, if we're going to understand the character of God in this passage, and apply it to our life, I think it means that there may be things in your life that you haven't experienced or aren't experiencing because you're not trusting God with them.

You're not believing God with them. And there is always a consequence. We will always miss out on what God wants to do in our life whenever we are sitting in our unbelief. Now, I hope you hear that. I'm not saying that every consequence is a result of unbelief. I'm not saying that, but I am saying that there are consequences to unbelief. Here, their consequence was 40 years in the desert. Maybe you knew that. Maybe you knew that the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years. Did you ever know why? Why was that the punishment for their unbelief? It's because they asked for it. This is what they wanted. Did you catch what they said in verse two here?

It says all the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly and said to them, if only we had died in Egypt or in this wilderness. God's going, I want to bring you into the promised land and they're going, but we just want to die here. And he goes, if that's what you want, that's what you're going to get. So why'd they ask for the wilderness? Well, they asked for the wilderness because the wilderness was safe. It was what they knew, and what they knew was good enough. Is what you know, right now, is what you know good enough? See, I don't think God's desire for you is good enough. I think God's desire for you is more than you could possibly ask or imagine.

I want to point out something important here in this passage before we move on. You see, not only did these 10 men miss out on what God wanted to do, they made a lot of other people miss out on what God wanted to do. You see, their disbelief was contagious. Their disbelief rubbed

off on other people in their life. And there's really two implications of this. The first is this. Who you hang out with matters. Who your people are matters because their belief is likely being transferred over to you, at least in pieces. So who are you hanging out with? Are your people the 10 or are they the two? And I just want you to know that if the people in your life are negative, cynical, pessimistic people, that is likely being carried over into your life.

And if it's being carried over into your life, their unbelief is being transferred into your life. And it's making you miss out on what God might want to do in your life. So if you're okay with that, keep hanging with the, keep hanging with the 10. I want to hang with the two because I want all God has for me. So the first thing we can learn here is that who you hang out with matters because their faith is likely being transferred over to you. The second thing we can understand is this. You are also passing along your belief to others. Your beliefs are contagious. So parents specifically think about this.

What type of belief are you passing on to your kids? What are they getting from you? This week, as I've been thinking about this passage, I've been thinking about a moment that happens in our house every single day. And it's at dinner time. We sit around the dinner table, and right before we eat, I pray for us, and um, you know, if you do that every day, it just kind of gets repetitive, and I end up kind of saying the same things.

Something like, "God, thank you so much for providing this meal, and would you keep us safe, and in Jesus name, Amen." And I, man, I just think as I've been, as I've been processing with that this week, I think parents, if you pray that again and again and again and again, that type of prayer is going to lull your kid to sleep.

Parents, what type of faith are your kids getting from you? Are the prayers they're hearing from you prayers like this, "God, she's a junior in high school and high school is a scary time. So would she, would you please just keep her from people who have sex? Would you keep her from people who drink alcohol? And would she just make it to graduation with some semblance of a faith?" Or, Are they hearing prayers like, "God, she's a junior in high school, and I pray that she would come to know and love Jesus deeply now. I pray that she'd be so desperate for the word of God, so that she might be so empowered by the spirit of God, that you might use her to save every single person in the junior class at Midway High School. Or Lorena High School, or Waco High School, or China Spring High School. May she be an absolute force for the kingdom there. And may she not just barely make it through high school, but may she thrive in high school. May you use her to change that entire campus." Parents, what are your kids getting from you?

You see, most of the time, I want you to know this. I've been in ministry long enough. I did college ministry long enough to know this. Most of the time, not all of the time, most of the time, kids grow up and reject the faith, not because their parents believed for too much, but because they saw their parents believe for too little. And since they believe for little, they saw little and those kids grow up and say, I don't want any of that. What are you passing on to the other people in your life? Everyone. Are you praying offensive prayers or defensive prayers? Are you praying like the Israelites? Are you saying, God, keep me safe? Just keep me right here where I know what to expect in the day in and day out.

Just keep me safe, Lord. Are you praying defensive prayers or are you praying offensive prayers? Are you saying, God, how might I be used for the kingdom today? God, I pray that you'd reconcile that relationship today. God, I pray that you'd heal that person today. God, I pray that you'd provide financially today. God, I pray that you'd be on the move in and through my life today. Are you passing along defensive prayers or offensive prayers? Are you passing along fear or faith? It's the second thing we can learn from this passage. It's this point number two, disbelief will make you miss out on what God can do. And I don't want to miss out on what God wants to do.

So let's finish this passage out by, by re reading verse 23. And then we're going to finish by reading verse 24. God says this about the people who didn't trust him. **“Not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.” (Numbers 14:23)** But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to and his descendants will inherit it. Since he had a different spirit, he will have a different experience. And since he had a different belief, he will have a different life. And it's point number three.

Third thing we can learn is this.

### *3. A different spirit brings different results.*

You know, most people will grumble. Most people will disbelieve. Most people will complain. Most people will want to be safe. And most people will miss out on what God wants to do through their life. I don't want to be most people. I want to be filled with a different spirit, just like Caleb. I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit because I believe that a different spirit brings different results. And since Caleb believed that God would do it, he got to see God do it because a different spirit brings different results. I could, I could bring up a lot of different examples of this, but, but here's one that just felt.

So timely this week, uh, this week, JP got to speak at a conference called passion. Some of you might know what it is. Some of you might have no idea what it is, but, but here's a picture of what it looked like this week and specifically for college students. And uh, there's like 55, 000 college students there. And this, this conference, it happens every year. It was started by a guy named Louie Giglio. He's a pastor in Atlanta. And uh, I, I was listening to a conversation with him and, and that conversation really marked me. Because he was talking about passion a couple of years ago, and they rent out the Atlanta Falcon Stadium, but they haven't always done that.

And one year they chose to rent it out, and it was just a couple months before Passion was going to happen. And like, ticket sales were not where they needed to be. And it looked like they had bitten off more than they could chew, and it just, it didn't look like it was going to go all that well. And so he had a gathering with his team, and Louie just sat with them, and he said, “Guys. I don't want to enter into the falcon stadium in a couple months and look around and see every seat full and go, I can't believe God did that. I want to be praying for it now. I want to be believing for it now so that when I walk into that stadium and see every seat full, I go, of course God did it.”



You see, there are two different types of Christians. There is the Christian where God provides. He does something amazing. And there's a Christian that goes, I can't believe God did it. And there's a Christian that goes, Of course he did it. Because I've been praying for that, because I've been believing for that. Of course he did it. I don't want to be a, I can't believe he did it, Christian. I want to be a, of course he did it, Christian. I want to be believing for things and praying for things so that when they come to pass, it's like, man, I knew that could happen because God said it could. I was talking to JP about it this week, and he just said, man, you know, Nate, our biggest asks of God are really small asks of God.

It's so true. The biggest, craziest thing you could possibly ask of God. It's small potatoes to him. Now, I do want to emphasize, I'm not saying that God's a genie in the Bible. I'm not saying, Hey, if you just believe enough, it's going to happen. I'm not saying that, but I am saying that as believers in Jesus, we have reason for great hope. We have reason for big belief. Why? Because we have received a better report than the report they got in Numbers chapter 13. Let me show you one other thing from this text. As I said, uh, Moses picked one person from each of the 12 tribes of Israel and sent them as spies into the land, uh, the promised land.

And, and one of them, his name was Caleb. Let me read what it says in Numbers chapter 13, 6. It says this, from the tribe of Judah, Caleb's son of Jephunneh. In Numbers chapter 13, the people of God feared death from their enemy. So Moses picked a man from the tribe of Judah to go into the heart of enemy territory. And his job, this man from the tribe of Judah, his duty was to determine whether or not the people of God would die in this land. So he surveyed the land, he surveyed the enemy, and he came back with a report to the people of God and he said, "You need not fear death. God will give us the victory." A little bit later in scripture, once again, the people of God feared death from their enemy.

So this time, God, not Moses, sent someone into the heart of enemy territory. Once again, he picked someone from the tribe of Judah. In fact, Revelations 5 says Five says that he picked the lion of the tribe of Judah and he sent him into the heart of enemy territory. This time though, he was not sent in as a spy, but as a warrior, he didn't survey our enemy. He went and slayed our enemy. And then he came back with a report to the people of God. And he said, you need not fear death for death is defeated. You need not fear judgment, for you have been forgiven. You need not fear that snake, because I just stomped on his head. You need not fear anything, because I have won.

The question is, Harris Creek, will this time the people of God trust the report from the man of Judah? Will we trust the man from the line of Judah? Will we believe the report of hope, or the report of fear? And which report you choose to believe will have implications. on your life. So in summary, three things we can learn from this text.

Point number one, who you trust changes how you perceive your problem. Point number two, disbelief will make you miss out on what God can do. And point number three, a different spirit brings different results.

- 1. Who you trust changes how you perceive your problem*
- 2. Disbelief will make you miss out on what God can do*
- 3. A different spirit brings different results.*

Now I want to close with a story that's, I think is a really, really important story for our, for our church. There are certain people here who might know every single detail of this, uh, but you are in the minority because most of you have not been here, uh, longer than five years. Those of us who have are, are in the minority, which is great. I just want to make sure you all know this important story in the life of our church.

Five years ago, JP came on staff in, in January of 2019. At that time, we had just moved into this auditorium three months prior in October, and, uh, we, along with it came, uh, a debt. When you were in, in, in debt of 6.9 million dollars, we had to pay this off, 6.9 million dollars. And I can just tell you, as someone who was on staff at the time, that felt crippling. Because we moved into this building, and we had one service, and we had like four people, 400 people coming, and, uh, it just, it was not the best of times. And, uh, as someone on staff, I was like, man, how in the world is this debt ever going to be paid off?

So JP comes on staff and early on, like, like really, really early on, we had a staff meeting and he comes to our staff and he goes, guys, I just feel like God is calling me to believe for 7 million dollars in 7 years. I feel like God has places on my heart, seven and seven, 7 million dollars in 7 years. And I tell you what, that, that moment was not like a rally the troops moment. I wasn't like, yes, won't he do it? I was like, JP, I don't think that's going to happen. Because it was one of those moments where if he wasn't '67 I would have just patted him on the head and, uh, been like, "buddy, you ain't in Dallas anymore.

We don't got that type of money here. This is Waco. In fact, it's not just Waco. We're McGregor. Like, 6.9 million is a lot. I know maybe in Dallas it's not. Here, it's a lot." And at that time, truly, I was like, JP, it's going to be a move of God if we can pay this thing off in 30 years. He paid it off in under three. I tell that story for two reasons.

I want you to know two things. Really, I want you to know the first thing. I want you to know, firstly, your pastor was on the right side of belief. Secondly, I was on the wrong side of belief. I got to taste what that tasted like. I didn't like it. Uh, that was a defining moment in my life. When we paid that off in December of 2021, I just was thinking, I never want to feel this way ever again.

I don't want to be on the wrong side of belief because at the end of my life, whenever my time is up here on earth, I don't want it to be said of me, man, he believed God for too little. I would much rather have it be said of me that I got to heaven and got to see my savior face to face. And he looked at me and he said, Hey, Nate, you're really kind of overshot some things down there. Like you believed me for too much. I would much rather believe God for too much. Then too little. I would much rather for the rest of my life be found with the two than with the ten. Because I would much rather say things and believe things and pray things that make me look like a fool in front of you than things that make me look like a fool in front of him.

So I want to trust him for more. I want to believe for more. Not that it's always gonna come exactly how I want it to go, but I can trust that whatever is gonna come is gonna be good. So right now I want to do two things. We're going to pray, but as I pray, I want us to do two things. I want to repent personally and I think probably communally for all the times in our life when we have not believed God in the ways that we should, when we've been wracked with disbelief or

we didn't think God could come through and we maybe missed out on what God wanted to do in our lives.

I want us to repent of those moments and I want us to ask God, What are some things in our life right now that we're not believing for, that we should be believing for? What are some things that we're not praying for, that we should be praying for? I don't know what the craziest thing in your life right now might be to pray for. Maybe it's a reconciled relationship with your dad. You've given up on it. Or maybe it's that God would provide financially in some way. I don't even want to give you examples because I would rather have the Holy Spirit give you examples than me. So, so we're gonna do two things right now. We're gonna repent of the ways in which we have disbelieved God, and we're gonna ask Him, where do we need to be believing for Him to come through in our life?

Right now. Let's, let's do that.

Heavenly Father, we repent of the times in which we have not believed You. You know, we are a, a, a funny people. I am a funny person. I, I can say things like I believe that Jesus conquered death, but I don't think He can really do that. I repent of those times in which I have said, God, I don't think you can really do that. I'm sorry for the ways in which that offends you in the ways in which it limits you. And just the foolishness of those moments when I have chosen to not believe you in the ways in which I should. And God, right now, I just pray for every single person here in this room that your Holy Spirit would just enlighten them with something, one thing that they need to be praying for, that they need to be hoping for, that they need to be believing for. What's that one thing? What's the craziest thing they could possibly think of? That thing where if it happened, it would almost be unbelievable. God, I pray that your Holy Spirit would just enlighten that to every single person here in this space right now. What's that thing we should be praying for? And God, I do pray that as it comes to mind right now, I pray that they could see resolution, whatever that might be today. I believe that you can do it today, whatever it is. I believe that can happen right now. Someone's heart can be moved right now. Something can be going on right now. We pray that it would happen today. We believe it can happen today, but if it does not happen today. I pray that we wouldn't stop praying tomorrow or the next day or the next day, but we would be like a person at the door knocking over and over and over again, saying, God, do you hear me? Could you give me bread? Would you give me bread? Would you give me bread? Would you give me bread? And God, I pray that we'd be people who could see those moments when you do provide. And I also pray that we'd be people when things don't go exactly like we hoped, we believe you anyway, we trust you anyway, and it's because of one reason and one reason alone. It's because of the reason that Jesus is alive and with us and for us, and it's in his name that we pray. Amen.