

## **The Plausibility of the Possibilities of the Impossibilities**

In a world where unbelief is reigning, we, as God's people, are called to believe Almighty God for the impossible. And the greatest things that we must believe God for will be based on that which we have no former frame of reference, other than those miraculous things recorded in the Bible or by testimonies of what others have experienced. Although we take the Bible as infallible and the testimonies of Christians who have gone on before us reliable, God seems to delight in bringing us to the point where we have no physical, empirical evidence other than a belief that stands alone on the person and work of whom we believe God to be and what we believe God is able to do. Our Lord teaches us in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Before we go further, we need to set forth the truth that there are some things that are absolutely impossible.

1. It is impossible to nullify the finished work of Christ as accomplished through the Gospel (Hebrews 6:4-6).
2. It is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2; Numbers 23:19).
3. It is impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6).
4. It is impossible for any power in heaven and earth to surpass the power of God (Jeremiah 32:27; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 26:18).
5. It is impossible for God to stop loving His children (Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 8: 35-39).

Impossible has been defined as not possible; unable to be, exist, happen; unable to be done, performed, effected. Possible has been defined as able to be done; within the power or capacity of someone or something.

### **I. MIRACLES BEGIN WITH IMPOSSIBILITY.**

Luke 1:34-38. When God wants to do something good, He starts with a difficulty. When He wants to do something great, He begins with an impossibility. As long as there is human explanation, there is always the chance that man may take the credit for what God does. God glories in doing the inexplicable!

### **II. A PURE HEART IS FERTILE GROUND THAT INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY OF THE IMPOSSIBILITY.**

Matthew 5:8; Psalm 24:3,4; Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1, 2. James 4:3, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Many times a lust for material things get in the way of the miracle we need. I Timothy 6:10; Proverbs 16:8; Luke 12:15-21; Luke 18:18-30.

### **III. DOUBT PARALYSES THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE IMPOSSIBILITIES.**

A. Doubt is being in two minds. In Mark 11:23 Jesus said, "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith." The Greek word for "doubt" is διακρίνω (diakrino), which means to be in two minds. It is a meaning that expresses an inner state of mind so torn between various options that it cannot make up its mind. James 1:6 and 8 says it like this: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed...A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." The word "wavereth" is again from the word διακρίνω (diakrino) and the word "double-minded" is translated from the word δίψυχος (dipsukos) which means to be two-spirited (chronically double-minded) i.e., vacillating (in opinion or purpose). Our English word "doubt" comes from the Latin "dubitare" which is rooted in the word meaning two. So we can start by defining our terms like this: to believe is to be in one mind about accepting something as true; to disbelieve is to be in another mind about rejecting it. To doubt is to waver between the two, to believe and disbelieve at once and so to be in two minds.

B. Doubt is an inner argument.

The risen Lord was still dealing with some doubtful believers when He asked, "...Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?" (Luke 24:38). The Greek word for "thoughts" is διαλογισμός (dialogismos) meaning a man with an inward debate, the thinking of a man deliberating with and arguing with himself.

C. Doubt is like being suspended in mid-air.

Jesus said in Luke 12:29, "...neither be ye of doubtful mind." The Greek word for "doubtful mind" in this verse is "μετεωρίζω" (meteorizo). This is the root origin of our word "meteor." Literally rendered, it means to raise in mid-air, i.e. (figuratively) to suspend. The best example I can give you is the feeling I received when I was a kid and the giant Ferris wheel we were riding came close to the top and suddenly stopped and rocked our seat back and forth. My only comfort was knowing that directly, we were going to proceed with the ride and eventually be safely lowered to the ground. Emotionally this is what many a person is experiencing who is going through doubt--they are suspended in mid-air. It is the pain of non-resolution and spiritually troubled due to the suspense of not knowing.

D. Doubt is faltering.

Peter walked on the water with Jesus, but soon he looked at the turbulent waves around him and began to sink. The Lord extended His hand and pulled Him up and asked, "...O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" (Matthew 14:31). Here our Lord uses "διστάζω" (distazo), meaning to falter, to hold back and to distance oneself. Don't believe your doubts and doubt your beliefs; believe your

beliefs and dismiss your doubts! The essence of faith is described in Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). If we can see it, faith is not required. This is why we are commanded to “...walk by faith, not by sight” (II Corinthians 5:7).

#### IV. BELIEF TRANSFERS THE IMPOSSIBILITY FROM POSSIBILITY TO REALITY.

Mark 9:19-24.

A. Bring the problem to Jesus.

Mark 9:19: “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.”

B. Satan doesn't surrender ground easily.

Mark 9:20: “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.”

C. Time does not limit God's power.

Mark 9:21: “And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.”

D. Limitless power is packaged in belief.

Mark 9:22, 23: “And oftentimes 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. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”

E. The weakest faith is bolstered by the heart's desire.

Mark 9:24: “And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.” Matthew 17:20b: “...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.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.