

**I. Like Jesus' disciples in Matthew 17, many believers have both faith and unbelief working at the same time.**

A. **The Lord said, "It's your unbelief that's the problem.** Without unbelief working against it, your faith doesn't need to be any bigger than a mustard seed to get the job done" MATT. 17:20.

B. Instead of trying to shoot your faith through the roof, pull the plug on your unbelief, drain it to zero, and you'll find that your faith is strong enough to accomplish anything you need.

*That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart. MARK 11:23*

**II. To get the results you're after, you must be single-minded and focused**  
(James 1:7-8)

A. Abraham didn't allow himself to think on anything contrary to what God had told him.

*Who against hope believed in hope, that he [Abraham] might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. [19] And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb. ROMANS 4:18-19*

B. You can't be tempted with anything you don't think.

C. If your thoughts are only on God, then all you will be tempted with is to believe and trust Him.

D. But if your thoughts are on things other than God, then you could be tempted with those things.

E. A fleeting thought doesn't mean you're in unbelief, but when you consider, entertain, study, deliberate, examine, and ponder it, you'll be tempted.

**III. Unbelief comes through your thought process.**

A. It doesn't take a lot of faith to receive from God; it takes a pure, simple, childlike faith.

B. However, most of us as Christians are baptized in unbelief.

- C. We're still so plugged in to the world's negativity that it's a miracle our faith has accomplished what it has.
- D. We know God wants to bless us.
- E. We're asking for it and heading in that direction, but we're loaded down with all of this unbelief.

#### **IV. Living a more separated life.**

- A. I don't watch or listen to things I used to.
- B. Because of this, my faith is purer—it's not as diluted now.
- C. I don't have as many thoughts of unbelief as before, because I quit opening myself up to things that give me opportunity for it.

#### **Deal With Your Unbelief**

#### **V. Unbelief comes in three different types: ignorance, disbelief, and natural.**

- A. Ignorance is when someone just doesn't know the truth.
  - i. Due to their lack of knowledge, they have unbelief.
  - ii. This type of unbelief is relatively easy to deal with.
  - iii. Just tell them the truth!
- B. Disbelief comes from being taught wrong.
  - i. Disbelief is more difficult to overcome than ignorance.
  - ii. Although it is a little harder to overcome, the antidote for this second type of unbelief is the same as the first.
  - iii. I had to receive the truth of God's Word above man's traditions in order to overcome this unbelief that came through wrong teaching.

#### **VI. Natural unbelief isn't ignorance or wrong teaching but simply natural input that's contrary to the truth.** (Mark 9:14-29, parallel to Matt. 17:14-21).

- A. You go through life receiving input from your eyes, ears, and feelings and making your decisions based on that. It's not wrong, or evil; it's just natural.
- B. However, there are things you can't perceive with just your five physical senses,

and there are times when the Lord will ask you to take a step of faith.

- C. That's when you must be able to get beyond the kind of unbelief that comes from natural things.
- D. Most people are dominated by their physical senses.
- E. It was this kind of unbelief—natural unbelief—that hindered the disciples in Matthew 17.
- F. They had ministered to the boy, believing, but when he began going into convulsions, they were moved more by what they saw than by what they believed.

#### **VI. How do you overcome this kind of unbelief?**

*Howbeit this kind [of unbelief] goes not out but by prayer and fasting.*

MATTHEW 17:21

- A. Many people have misinterpreted this verse.
- B. Unbelief is the consistent subject of both verses (Matt. 17:20-21)—“*this kind*” in verse 21 refers to “*unbelief*” in verse 20, not to the demon in verse 19.
- C. Therefore, Jesus was saying that this type of unbelief—natural unbelief—can only come out by much prayer and fasting.

#### **VII. Just a tiny bit of faith is sufficient if there isn't anything to counterbalance it.**

- A. However, natural unbelief normally kicks in through your senses whenever you pray and something contrary happens.
- B. This is because you've been trained to go by your five natural senses—what you can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel.
- C. Jesus said that the only way you can overcome this kind of unbelief is through prayer and fasting (Matt. 17:21).
- D. There are times in your life when responding to what you can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel will not get the job done.
- E. You must be able to move beyond your natural senses and into the spirit realm. How? Through prayer and fasting.

1. According to James 2:16, does wishing someone well but not giving them what they need profit?
2. Paul said what he said in Romans 12:3 through what?
3. Who did he say it to?
4. Should we think more highly of ourselves than we ought?
5. According to John 5:44, does seeking one another's honor hinder our believing?
6. From whom should we seek honor only?
7. According to Matthew 17:20, the disciples couldn't cast the demon out of the boy because of what?
8. According to James 1:7-8, who is unstable in all their ways?
9. Will they receive anything from the Lord?
10. Double-mindedness hinders our ability to what from the Lord?
11. According to Mark 11:23, what are we to speak to?
12. According to Romans 4:18-19, who believed in hope?
13. God had spoken that Abraham would become the father of what?
14. Was he weak in faith?
15. What did Abraham consider not?
  - A. His own body now dead
  - B. He was about a hundred years old
  - C. The deadness of Sarah's womb
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
16. According to Mark 9:14-18, what did this boy have?
17. According to Mark 9:19-24, all things are possible to whom?

18. According to Mark 9:25-29, whom did Jesus rebuke?
19. What did the boy appear like once the deaf and dumb spirit came out of him?
20. What happened when Jesus took the boy by the hand and lifted him up?

**DEAL WITH YOUR UNBELIEF DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS                      LESSON 20**

21. According to Mark 9:14-18, who couldn't cast the demon out?
22. According to Mark 9:19-24, what would this evil spirit do to the boy attempting to destroy him?
23. What did the father cry out with tears?
24. According to Mark 9:25-29, what did Jesus charge the dumb and deaf spirit to do?
25. Did the spirit obey?
26. Where was Jesus when the disciples asked Him about this privately?
27. According to Matthew 17:14-18, who brought the boy to the disciples?
28. What two questions did Jesus ask when He found out that the disciples had failed to cast the demon out?
29. Jesus told them to bring the boy to whom?
30. According to Matthew 17:19-21, unbelief hindered the disciples' faith when they tried to do what?
31. If our faith is pure—without any unbelief counteracting it—what shall be impossible for us?
32. How do we get rid of this kind of natural unbelief?

JAMES 2:16

And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding You give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

ROMANS 12:3

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.

JOHN 5:44

How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that comes from God only?

MATTHEW 17:20

And 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.

JAMES 1:7-8

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. [8] A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

MARK 11:23

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 says shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he says.

ROMANS 4:18-19

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. [19] And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb.

MARK 9:14-29

And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them. [15] And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him. [16] And He asked the scribes, What question you with them? [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 spoke to Your disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. [19] He answered him, and said, 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 tore 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 many times it has cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do anything, 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.”

## **WITH YOUR UNBELIEF**

## **LESSON 20 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MATTHEW 17:14-21**

And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, [15] Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. [16] And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. [17] Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to Me. [18] And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. [19] Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? [20] And 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 goes not out but by prayer and fasting.