



BELIEVE, BELIEVER!

BY SHAUN HICKEY

“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.”

MATTHEW 21:18-22 ~ *“Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. ¹⁹ And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, ‘Let no fruit grow on you ever again.’ Immediately the fig tree withered away.*

²⁰ And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, ‘How did the fig tree wither away so soon?’

*²¹ So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **if you have faith and do not doubt**, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. ²² And whatever things you ask in prayer, **believing, you will receive.**”*

Jesus did not doubt. And through the power of His word, the fig tree had no option but to obey; instantly withering away.

If you have faith and do not doubt:

If we have faith in the words of Jesus, and **do not doubt**, we will not only do what He did to the fig tree but will receive power to cast mountains into the depths of the sea.

In other words, if we honestly believe and trust the words of Jesus Christ, we will be able to see the impossible become possible right before our very eyes.

The challenge – do not doubt:

The Gospel of Mark records the same account of Jesus cursing the fig tree. However, Jesus’ words were recorded in a different way:

- *“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ **and does not doubt in his heart, but believes** that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says” (Mark 11:23).*

To be one who ‘believes’ means not allowing **doubt filled words to spill out of your mouth**, nor give room for **doubt to contaminate your heart**.

Scripture puts it like this:

- *“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ **For with the heart one believes** unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:8-10).*

Confession of belief is:

- Confession void of **doubt**
- Confession that contains power, and sincerity
- Confession containing substance and truth – proof of *whom you really believe*, Jesus Christ
- Confession of pure faith coming from a heart of **belief**

Our heart reveals both doubt and belief. This truth cannot be hidden:

- *“Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart”* (Psalm 44:21)

We cannot *confess* to **believe** in the truth of God’s word, while contaminating our confession with doubt and unbelief. Because our heart reveals to the Holy Spirit our truth - **the true state of belief within our heart.**

- It is with the heart that we either believe, or do not believe
- The words that we *confess* with the mouth, release what we genuinely believe is true in our heart.
- You cannot truly be born again **if you doubt in your heart** that Jesus is your Savior, who died to redeem you from all sin
- You cannot pretend you are believing for a miracle **if you doubt in your heart**, *“all things are possible to him who believes”* (Mark 9:23).

BELIEF + DOUBT = UNBELIEF

Mark 9:14-29 records testimony of a boy tormented by a mute spirit which is trying to destroy him by throwing him into fire and water.

The disciples could not cast this demonic spirit out, so the boy’s father took him to Jesus; the boy started manifesting before Him.

Jesus said to the boy’s father:

- *“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes”* (Mark 9:23).

The boy’s father was convicted and cried out to Jesus with tears:

- *“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief”* (Mark 9:24).

The man was confronted with truth and convicted of the **unbelief and doubt** contaminating his heart, robbing him and his son of complete breakthrough.

At a time when he needed to have full belief, and a strong confession of faith, his heart of unbelief was exposed.

A desperate cry for Jesus to help with his **unbelief** came from deep within the *heart* of the man. This was a serious issue and he desperately wanted his son set free.

Through a heartfelt cry to a compassionate, and merciful Jesus, his son was set free:

- *“When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, ‘Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no*

more!’²⁶ Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, ‘He is dead.’²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose” (Mark 9:25-27).

UNBELIEF

We are regularly challenged by a *power* that rages against our faith and confession. That power is **unbelief**. At times, we allow **unbelief** to overpower us.

Unbelief manifests when there is an absence of faith, or a blatant rejection of truth and the will of God in any given situation.

Unbelief kept Israel out of the Promised Land:

- “So we see that they could not enter in because of **unbelief**” (Hebrews 3:19).

Unbelief prompted Gabriel to mute Zacharias’ mouth:

- “But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because **you did not believe my words** which will be fulfilled in their own time” (Luke 1:20).

Unbelief hindered Jesus:

- “Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And **He marveled because of their unbelief**. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching” (Mark 6:5-6).

DOUBT

We need to *believe with all our heart* that Jesus can, and will perform that which we ask of Him; there is no room for *doubt*.

Doubt is having a feeling of uncertainty, or to lack conviction regarding something.

Belief empowered Peter to walk on water; doubt caused him sink:

- “And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, **why did you doubt?**” (Matthew 14:31)

Doubt causes double-mindedness, instability, and lack:

- “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, **for he who doubts** is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:6-8).

Satan knows the power of a believer, so hinders people’s prayers by placing doubt in their minds:

- By making you feel unworthy of Gods promises
- Reminding you of your imperfections
- Bringing feelings of failure and condemnation to you
- Getting you to look at circumstance rather than God’s truth

- Getting you to question God's faithfulness
- Questions what *you* believe God has said, hindering your confession of faith.

DOUBT IS OUR ENEMY!

We can rebuke the devils' doubt:

- *"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you"* (James 4:7).

When demonic forces mutter doubtful nonsense, it does not mean we have to agree with it. We instead have a choice to stand on the word of God and believe what God has promised

- *"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"* (Ephesians 6:11).

We do not have to succumb to any doubt Satan places in our minds. Treat doubt as an enemy!

To succumb to the doubts demonic forces place on our mind means we are **more believing** of what they say, rather than what the word of God says:

- We are children of God (see 1 John 3:1)
- Jesus loves us, and He died for us (see Romans 5:8)
- Jesus does not hold you in condemnation (see Romans 8:1)
- God's word is truth (see John 17:17)
- If we believe, all things are possible (see Mark 9:23).

"I BELIEVE; HELP MY UNBELIEF"

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."
(Hebrews 12:2)

Regarding the boy tormented by a mute spirit (see Mark 9:14-29), Jesus knew the boy's father had unbelief, causing a blockage in receiving breakthrough. But as the man cried out for help, Jesus responded in power.

If Jesus helped this man with his issue of unbelief, then He will help us with ours too.

We have a Helper...

Jesus has not left us alone. He has sent the mighty Helper (Holy Spirit) to help us:

- *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that He may abide with you forever"* (John 14:15-16)
- *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper** will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."* (John 16:7).

Now the 'Helper' is exactly that...a helper; someone who helps someone else!

The 'Helper' (the Holy Spirit), dwells within us and is working to bring our **faith and belief** to a greater level.

He does this by:

- Testifying of Jesus Christ and connecting us to Almighty God
- Leading and guiding us
- Strengthening our inner man (see Ephesians 3:16)
- Training and encouraging us to **believe** the words that He speaks
- Helping us understand and trust the Scriptures; He gives revelation.

The Helper cuts away unbelief...

- *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, **and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**”* (Hebrews 4:12).
- *“For **with the heart one believes unto righteousness...**”* (Romans 10:10).

To fully understand or become aware of any unbelief robbing your breakthrough, the *‘Helper’* must reveal it to you. And although His truth can hurt at times, His only intention is to bring you closer to Jesus and lift your belief to a whole new level.

I know this pain. Many can assume I am a man of great faith for the things Jesus has led me to do since committing my life to Him:

- Wonderful healing miracles have taken place before my eyes
- The captives have been set free; demons flee at the name of Jesus Christ
- The impossible becomes possible through Him.

However, this article was mostly written at a time the *‘Helper’* heavily convicted *my heart* to how much unbelief I was carrying. This truth from the Holy Spirit pierced through my soul and spirit, shaking me to the core of my faith.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus”

(Romans 8:1)

I had to process many feelings. I felt ashamed, angry, and vulnerable at His rebuke. But as I sat before Him, His truth and intention began to be revealed.

He did not set out to break me, He had purposed to awaken me, convict me, and draw me to greater belief in His word and promises.

WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS, IT IS FOR GREATER LIFE

Doubt and unbelief can easily sneak through the door of our heart and contaminate our faith. Therefore, we need to be people who seek the word of God, unravel what the Scriptures tell us, and be in constant relationship with the *‘Helper’*, so He can lead us in all truth. This truth is not only the truth of Scripture, but the truth of what is contaminating our heart of belief.

If the people of Israel could not enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief (see Hebrews 3:19), then I do not want to suffer the same regarding the *promised land* Jesus has prepared for me.

I need the Holy Spirit to convict me of unbelief for a greater life, otherwise I will die in the wilderness and that will be devastating.

The 'Helper' will challenge your heart of belief:

Holy Spirit will lead you to face challenges, or circumstances that outweigh natural ability. When such challenges arise, we are not to respond in unbelief, but respond in belief to the truth of what God has said:

- *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:13)
- *"For by You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall."* (Psalm 18:29)
- *"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* (2 Timothy 1:7).

The 'Helper' will teach, help you believe, and trust the word of God:

- *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth..."* (John 16:13)
- *"...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17)

The Holy Spirit will teach you the Scriptures; developing your capacity to *believe* in what they say. As you hear/read the word of God and trust in the leading of the Holy Spirit *through your obedience*, your faith will increase, and your heart will begin to grow in *belief*.

If you do not know or believe the truth, you will believe a lie:

- *"Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."* (Romans 16:17-18)
- *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* (John 8:32).

Truth tells us everything that looks impossible, is possible... if you believe:

- *"Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.'"* (Mark 9:23)

When Jesus said, *"all things are possible"*, He meant *all things, anything, whatever things, and everything* is possible, **through belief** in the ability and truth of Christ:

- *"Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me**, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³And **whatever** you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask **anything** in My name, I will do it"* (John 14:12-14).

WALKING IN BELIEF - TO BELIEVE, OR NOT BELIEVE!

As believers in Jesus Christ, we all have a measure of belief:

Salvation is based on belief in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ...

- *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)*

Faith is based on belief...

- *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God **must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him**” (Hebrews 11:6)*

Prayers are answered through belief...

- *“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe that you receive them, and you will have them**” (Mark 11:24)*

TO WALK IN BELIEF IS TO KNOW THE AUTHORITY THAT IS IN JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 8:5-13 tells the story of Jesus healing a centurion’s servant. The centurion (a Roman officer who had command over one hundred men) approached Jesus because his servant was at his home paralyzed and dreadfully tormented. He asked Jesus to heal his servant.

Jesus agreed to go and heal him, but the centurion refused to allow Jesus return to his house, saying:

- *“Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” (Matthew 8:8-9)*

Belief comes from knowing authority...

Being in the military the centurion understood authority. He was a man under authority and had men under his authority:

- If his commanding officer gave him an order, he obeyed; it was done
- If he gave officers under his command and order, they obeyed; it was done.

The centurion’s faith was strong in the line of command, and the power released through authority. Through his **total belief in the authority of Jesus Christ**, he knew Jesus only had to speak the word and it would be done.

This man must have been a believer:

- He was humble before Jesus (see Matthew 8:6)
- He called Jesus, “Lord”
- He had absolute belief in His ability; **believing that Jesus speaks truth.**

Jesus marveled at his total belief in His authority, and responded appropriately:

- *“Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” (Matthew 8:10)*

- *“Then Jesus said to the centurion, ‘Go your way; **and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.’ And his servant was healed that same hour”** (Matthew 8:13).*

A miraculous healing through strong belief in the authority and ability of Jesus Christ.

How much more could we see Jesus perform if we would only trust and believe?

- Do you believe Jesus has all authority?
- Do you believe the words Jesus speaks are truth, life, and all powerful?
- Or has the devil, or circumstance caused you to doubt this truth?

ALL AUTHORITY!

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth”

(Jesus Christ - Matthew 28:18)

- Authority in heaven and over the earth
- Authority over the church
- Authority to appoint officers and servants of the Kingdom of God
- Authority to command the angels
- Authority over unclean spirits
- Authority over sickness and disease
- Authority to forgive and restore

Total authority above everything, and everyone - He is the Name above all names:

- *“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Philippians 2:8-11).

If we have total belief in the authority of Jesus, our belief will empower us to walk in power:

- *“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶**He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.** ¹⁷**And these signs will follow those who believe:** In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”* (Mark 16:15-18)

What a way to live! This is possible for you, because when you walk in total belief in Jesus Christ and the authority that he has, all these things become a reality in the life of the believer.

TO WALK IN BELIEF IS TO HAVE 100% CONFIDENCE OR FAITH IN THE TRUTH, AND THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST.

If you genuinely believe this to be true, and believe, *“God is not a man, that He should lie”* (Numbers 23:19) then you will confidently step forward and do everything Jesus said we are capable of.

In His name and authority, you will:

- Cast out demons

- Speak in Tongues (Holy Spirit language)
- Walk over serpents and not be affected by the enemy's schemes
- Lay hands on the sick and see them recover
- Do anything He may command you to do
- Have power to bind and to loose (see Matthew 18:18)

TO GET ANSWERED PRAYER, WE MUST BELIEVE!

“And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

(Matthew 21:22)

To believe, is to believe what Jesus has said:

- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.”*
(John 16:23).

Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and man, and through His blood we have been granted full access to every blessing available through Him. When we pray (believing), asking in Jesus' name, we ask on account of His blood and righteousness, not our own.

Our **belief** should be in His perfection, goodness, and faithfulness, which will bring a powerful response to every need and prayer.

Praying with Faith...

- *“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And **the prayer of faith** will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven”* (James 5:14-15).

This is not a prayer of hope, or a prayer saturated in doubt. This is an **unwavering trust and belief in God**; that He will hear, and respond to the faith offered up during prayer, whether that be someone praying for us, or the *faith* we demonstrate as we pray.

Praying with persistence... Do not let a miracle get in the way of your belief:

- *“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened”* (Luke 11:9-10).
- *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Many years ago, I ruptured my ACL and damaged the cartilage in my knee playing rugby. To remedy this problem, I had two extensive operations (knee reconstruction), however this process was not completely successful. My quality of life was hindered; I was left not being able to run or do any vigorous exercise.

I spent at least 15 years doing rehab work and anything I could to recover, but my knee constantly failed me. All muscle conditioning would pretty much disappear overnight.

When I became a Christian, I prayed and received prayer for my knee but there was never any sign of change. I was constantly left in disappointment. Where was my miracle?

Then one day my oldest son (approx. 10 years old at the time) - who longed for his dad to have the ability to run around with him - made the decision to pray for me every day, for as long as it would take to see my knee healed. He said, "Dad, God is going to heal your knee. I am going to pray for you every day until it is healed."

And that is what he did. Every day he laid hands on my knee and prayed for healing. **He did not doubt** His Father God, nor the power available in Jesus name. When he prayed, **we believed God would answer.**

Days rolled into weeks, and weeks months without any miraculous sign from heaven. However, over time, through constant **belief**, strength started coming back to my knee. When I attempted to run around, or ride my bike, I suffered no negative side effects. My knee would not collapse on me, nor swell up after movement.

Long story short - Belief prevailed...

I slowly started running again, increasing workload over time, and through the grace of God I am now back to intensive running, mountain biking, training at the gym, and whatever my children wish to do with me; with no adverse side effects. **This is an absolute miracle - Praise Jesus!**

Pray, believe, do not doubt, keep believing. God will answer you!

The constant **belief** my son had **in God** brought about a miraculous healing, **but not an instant healing.** It took belief and persistence. If we had given up, or let doubt draw us into unbelief, I would still be hobbling around in disappointment.

Keep believing and keep persisting for your breakthrough. You may not be seeing instant results, but we are commanded to **believe in the unseen**, rather than what is seen:

- *"While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18)*
- *"Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'" (John 20:29).*

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

(Psalm 51:10)

Unbelief is a heart issue, and we need the Holy Spirit to cleanse and renew us, so we can walk effectively with Jesus. This is the power of transformation in Christ.

If you are being convicted of unbelief, rejoice! Be honest with Jesus: **"Lord, I believe; help my unbelief."** Because His intention is to transform your faith and create in you a *believing heart*, where you will see miracles break out before *your* very eyes. **This is possible if you decide to believe today!**

Be transformed...

Sit before God and call upon the 'Helper'. Be honest with Him, and ask Him to reveal where you have unbelief, and ask for truth as to why you carry unbelief in your heart - perhaps it is because of low self-worth, past failure, rejection... whatever the reason, He will tell you if you humbly seek Him.

- Write a list of everything He tells you (take your time)
- Carefully process every area of unbelief (allow Him to bring understanding)
- Confess your unbelief in each area (unbelief is sin and disobedience to the word of God)
- Ask for forgiveness, cleansing, and healing regarding each point (pray through them individually)
- Rebuke all unbelief (believe for transformation)
- Ask the Holy Spirit to heal, and fill you with faith/belief in each area
- Believe for transformation, and no longer listen to doubt (doubt is an enemy)
- Read, believe, and meditate on the word of God
- Make a new decision each day, to **walk in belief!**

Remember... True belief is proven through obedience.

Closing...

- To believe, is making a daily decision to trust everything Jesus has done, everything He is saying today, and everything Scripture says is possible and available for the believer
- We cannot live on yesterday's belief; every day is a new day filled with opportunity to prove your belief
- Jesus is all authority; believe He will back up your belief in Him
- You do not have to agree with doubt; doubt is the enemy
- Continue to believe, regardless of current circumstance
- To walk in power, is to have total 100% belief in Jesus' ability.

ISAIAH 43:10 ~ *"You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and **believe** Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me."*

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