

## **SPIRIT OF UNBELIEF**

- UNBELIEF is something that many people think is a small, common or normal thing to have.
- But the truth is that it is deadly and it would affect much.
- E.g. Why in life we don't see miracles, don't have confirmation of prayers being answered, or don't come to the destiny of which God has called us to, is all due to the problem of UNBELIEF.
  
- **1) UNBELIEF is the underlie of all evil spirits and sins.**
- It is the very basis of why we sin.
  - E.g. Adam and Eve sinned because (primarily) they did not believe in what God said about not eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
  
  - Or why we have desire for possession?
  - It is because we do not believe in God, but put trust in things other than God.
  - It is the same with sins like idolatry, worldliness, greed, legalism, immorality and many other sins.
  
  - E.g. Why we have immorality?
  - It is because we put trust in people and in relationship with people, instead of relationship with God. So that is UNBELIEF.
  
- **2) UNBELIEF is the reason why prayers are not answered.**
  - From Sunday school, probably many of us have been taught the reasons why prayers are not answered are 1) we don't pray according to God's will, 2) it is not the time for prayer to be answered.
  - The straight answers that we could tell a kid is God will answer with either a YES, NO or WAIT.
  - While this may be true, come to think of it, how often would one be praying a prayer that is out of God's will?
  - We may at times, but as true believers of God, it is actually rare to be praying something that is out of God's will, like 'God, make me rich so that I can live luxuriously.'
  - E.g. when we are sick, we will pray for God's healing. And it is God's will for us to be healed. Healing is the children's bread.
  - When we pray for salvation of family members, we are in a sense praying God's will, because it is God's will for all men to be saved.
  - When we are in need, we pray for God to provide, and it is God's will that whatever the children ask for in prayer, He would give.

- But why do we often not see these prayers being answered?
- That which is seldom taught in Sunday school, and something people don't bother to examine, is actually UNBELIEF. (James 1:6)
- The reason for that type of prayer or that type of faith life is DECEPTION.
- We pray and we don't actually see our prayer being answered. And then we either get disillusioned by it, or look for something to justify that God has answered our prayers, saying things like 'God knows what is best for us.'
- But the bible is clear with its teaching on prayer, that 'ask and it will be given to us' and 'when we ask for a fish, God will not give us a stone.'
- Because of UNBELIEF that is sneaking in our life w/o our realizing that we are deep into it, we live a life of POWERLESSNESS and not being able to come to the fullness of blessings and the promises that God wants us to live in.
- So we must know the severity of having UNBELIEF.
- Basically, once we have UNBELIEF, we could say there is nothing that God can do.
- In Mt 13:54-58, Jesus could not perform any miracles because of their UNBELIEF.
- UNBELIEF hinders God. God could not work at all in any case or hint of UNBELIEF.
- We should examine this, why in our life we don't see breakthrough, or are going in circles and facing endless problems.
- Because of UNBELIEF that hinders God's working.
- Know that the Holy Spirit is a gentle spirit, and He would not usually force His way through esp when we are filled with UNBELIEF.
- **3) Among all sins, the No. 1 sin that God hates and is grieved about is UNBELIEF.**
  - In the bible, the disciples committed many mistakes, and of course, they were rebuked and corrected most of the time. E.g. arguing over who is the greatest, asking Jesus to call down fire on the Samaritans who did not welcome Jesus.
  - But throughout the gospel, we often see the Lord rebuking harshly His disciples for their UNBELIEF.
  - Mt 17:20, the Lord said 'O what an unbelieving and perverse generation' to His disciples in front of a crowd.
  - The word 'perverse' means distorted.
  - Why unbelief and perversion comes together?
  - Because perversion is the distortion (Greek) – and it is the distortion of truth, distortion of what God says, distortion of the prescribed way of life of holiness.
  - So perversity is the same as UNBELIEF.

- On the contrary, when the Lord Jesus saw faith, He was glad and was seen to highlight those people with faith and praise them.
- Mt 8:10 to the centurion, 'I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.'
- He affirmed their faith all the time, saying 'Your faith has healed you.'
- And He is very willing to move in accordance to our faith.
- The centurion said 'But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.'
- The Lord said, 'Let it be done JUST AS YOU BELIEVED it would.'
- Meaning the degree of God's working has got to do with the degree of our faith.
- If the centurion said, 'Just think in your mind, and my servant will be healed.'
- The Lord would have gladly done it as he believed.
  
- Israel has committed many sins: Idolatry, immorality, etc.
- But the sin that barred them from entering into Promised land is UNBELIEF.
- When they sent the 12 spies to recce the land, they were all filled with fear and unbelief, murmuring against God, saying that they were like grasshoppers.
  
- So basically, if we have UNBELIEF, we will be going against God, and would have nothing to do with God.
- And we should examine why, in life, we get stuck and make not much progress and advancement.
- Israel could not get into Promised Land because of their UNBELIEF.
- In the same way, we may be hindered from advancing into our Promised Land because of our UNBELIEF as well.
  
- Years ago, someone came and told me of the difficulty he had at his work. And I prophesied to him that he would be promoted. But weeks later, he came and told that I was a false prophet, prophesying things that did not come to pass, because he was not chosen for promotion.
- But the problem why he wasn't promoted was not because of wrong prophecy, but because of his UNBELIEF.
- Sometimes when I laid hands on people who are unbelievers or refuse to believe or receive the Holy Spirit, I felt basically I was laying hands on a rock, because nothing flowed through.
- So it is the same. God has tremendous blessings for all of us: anointing, grace, Words which come from prophecy, etc. But if we respond with UNBELIEF, then nothing of what was promised or prophesied (no matter how great it might be) would come to pass.
  
- You see, sometimes people said God would put us through wilderness. That might be God's way of training His people, but God is not the type who enjoys putting His people into wilderness.

- So sometimes the reason why we are in wilderness is not so much because God wants to train us, but because of our UNBELIEF.
  - Because of UNBELIEF, we might be wandering in wilderness for 40 years and not getting out. But once we conquer our faith, then time in wilderness need not be long.
- **SO WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF UNBELIEF?**
- What is the definition of UNBELIEF in our context of discernment of spirits and spiritual deposition?
  - It is the BELIEVING OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN WHAT GOD HAS SAID ABOUT A SITUATION.
  - I think this would help us a lot to understand our UNBELIEF.
  - Many people often question the pastor, 'why you said we have UNBELIEF? We believe in Jesus, His resurrection and His coming. Why you always say we have UNBELIEF?'
  - Here is the answer. When we do not do what He says, we are operating in UNBELIEF.
  - But we ask how possible are we to believe in God and do not do what He says?
  - It is possible when we are still living in our flesh and in the worldly system.
  - E.g. Jesus told Philip, 'You give them something to eat.'
  - But Philip replied, '8 months' wages is not enough to give even a bite for one.'
  - That is Philip's UNBELIEF.
  - He was operating in the system of the world, and therefore was filled with UNBELIEF.
  - Heb 3:7, 'Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart.'
  - When we hear the Word or His voice, we must believe what it says and accept it fully.
  - Which is why when satan attacks the church, he attacks on the Word, challenging the Word, and causing people not to hear it, because faith comes from hearing the Word.
  - E.g. parable of sower, the seeds sown on the path were eaten away by the birds.
  - So we must guard the Word that is sown in us, and respond to the Word.
  - Not being able to respond to the Word is what we call 'DISOBEDIENCE.
  - So Spirit of UNBELIEF = Spirit of DISOBEDIENCE.
  - When we hear the Word, we don't obey, that is also UNBELIEF.

- Why we don't obey is because we don't BELIEVE in the Word, and therefore don't BELIEVE in God.
- **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DON'T DEAL WITH OUR DISOBEDIENCE?**
  - We will get hardened and will no more respond to God anymore, eventually rejecting God entirely, thus forfeiting our salvation. (God will not give up on men, the problem is men give up on God)
  - Heb 3:12, 'see to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.'
  - We will turn away from God.
  - V8, 'they will never enter my rest' -> not coming to the level or destiny that God wants us to have, not inheriting our promise.
  
- **DEALING WITH UNBELIEF (What to look out for?)**
- **1) On hearing correctly the Word of God**
- Since UNBELIEF is believing in something other than what God says about a situation, then the hearing of God's Word is important.
  - Of course, if we listen wrongly and respond to it, that is not unbelief but DECEPTION.
- However, the problem of UNBELIEF is not so much that we hear it wrongly. It is whether we want to hear it in the first place.
- So in whatever we do, if we do not pray, do not seek God, it is a clear sign that we have a strong UNBELIEF.
- Why? Because in the first place, we do not even believe in prayer, the power of prayer and living by the will of God, that's why we don't pray.
  
- **2) Why we do not pray and seek God is because there are things we have set in our mind to do.**
- That means we are inclined to disobey God.
- If God says something, and we don't do, the problem is not just disobedience, but UNBELIEF.
- Because if we believe, we would obey.
  
- Why we don't ask God is because we really want to do things our way, and we are afraid that God says 'no'.
- So we have to examine this area of our disobedience.
- Basically, we still have a lot of things we do not want to comply.
  
- To deal with UNBELIEF, we need to develop a lifestyle of praying and seeking God all the time.
- If one has never gone through training like this, it is hard for him to live a life of faith.
- He is bound to live by his flesh, by his own will and survival instincts.
- Even when he prays, his prayer would often be nothing but ritualistic and mechanical. -> spirit of religion.

- Why? If we don't believe in prayer, and yet still pray 2 hrs a day, then it is kind of weird. We are praying to fulfil an obligation.
- If we live a life of not praying and seeking God's will all the time, basically there is nothing we can do (or nothing God can do to bless us), even if we say we are doing it for God.
- How often do Christians say they want to honor God and they want to do it for God, whether it is work, study or ministry?
- If we want to do the work or ministry for God, then we have to do it God's way.
- But if we insist of doing it our way, i.e. we have our own methods, skills, experiences etc, then it is likely that God could not bless.
- Because the way in which He would bless is when we do it in His way.
- E.g. you cannot put a program that is meant to be running in WINDOWS into a MACINTOSH computer.
- Why? They are of different platforms and they are incompatible.
- Similarly, you can't expect God to put His program into a platform which is not His.
- If we have UNBELIEF -> we insist on doing things our own way, we don't want to seek God, we don't want to apply His principles, basically there is no way that God would work, even when we say we are doing it for the Lord.
- E.g. if we want to start a church, but we want to do it our way without seeking God or waiting for Him, then we are bound to face problems and fail.
- It might work for a while, but in the long run, we will lose out and be burnt out.
- The spirit of religion has been working so strong in the church that many Christians think it is possible to serve God or do things for God with own strength, own flesh and own methods.
- E.g. if we want to do a business, but we can't wait for God, we have our own ideas, methods, experience and reasonings, then it is very hard for God to prosper our business.
- So we need to examine these areas when dealing with our UNBELIEF:
  - 1<sup>st</sup>, our willingness to hear God's voice and seek His ways,
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>, our obedience on hearing His voice.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>, our willingness to WAIT ON HIM.
- **3) IMPATIENCE IS UNBELIEF**
- Why? We don't believe God will work in His time. That is UNBELIEF.
- It is also a kind of rebellion -> we don't want to come to the timing of God.
- So one who is quick into action, not able to pause or stop, highly distracted (e.g. prayer is everywhere. Not able to sustain for long hours.) -> a high chance that his UNBELIEF is very strong.
- Need to watch out on this, and go deep in our prayer.
- E.g. why distracted in prayer?

- Because in our mind, there are many things we can't wait to do, and we would go ahead of God, instead of waiting and seeking His advice.
- **4) EXCESSIVE REASONING is UNBELIEF**
- People with High C personality, need to be careful.
  
- The ways of the world is about 'weighing pros and cons'. If more 'pros', then that thing is doable. But it is not the way of God. The way of God is He would open a way even when there seems to be no way.
  
- The world's way -> risk calculation. Higher risk, then don't do. Lower risk, just do it.
- But this is not the way of God.
  
- The world's way -> majority rules, aka public's opinion.
- But God's way is even when all false prophets prophesied Jerusalem will not fall, but His chosen prophet prophesied Jerusalem will fall, then it would fall.
- Government and politics move a lot by public's opinion.
- But people of God move by Holy Spirit's opinion.
- If we walk by faith, it is very hard to be swayed easily by public's opinion.
  
- **5) MOVING BASED ON CHANCE & OPPORTUNITIES -> SURVIVAL INSTINCT**
- Faith is not moving by survival instinct.
- It is never the will of God for one to move by survival instinct.
- We should not move simply because of chance or door of opportunity that is open for us. Of course, when we have prayed and waited on Him, God will surely open the door for us, and if we have prayed, we will know it is from God when the opportunity comes.
  
- **6) It boils down to the question of knowing God's will.**
- If we know the will of God, then we will not be easily swayed by public's opinion, or what other people say, or what other opportunities arise.
- Problem is we don't exactly know the will of God or we didn't bother to find out (or we think that we know.)
  
- Characteristic of one who confirms the will of God is he is able to persevere, and not easily sway from one view to another.
  - o E.g. God's will is for one to leave the job and go to another. This is what he receives. But the next day when he goes back to work, the boss gives him a promotion with a pay rise. Seeing that circumstances in the company has changed for the better, he says God's will is for him to stay instead of leaving.
  
- What problem is this? Problem is he doesn't exactly know the will of God.
- When one does not know the will of God, it is very hard for him to act based on God's will or God's word -> i.e. UNBELIEF.

- Just like Israel wandered in wilderness because of their UNBELIEF, so when we wander in circles and waver from one position to another, then the problem is not just simply not knowing God's will, but it is our UNBELIEF. We got to admit that to resolve the problem of our wandering.
- If we hear God says something today, and tomorrow God says something else, then we got to examine 2 things. 1) Did God say that (or something else says so)? 2) My UNBELIEF has made me confused of that which God says.
- God is the same yesterday, today and forever. His word lasts from generation to generation. The Father of heavenly lights does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17)
- It is rare for God to tell us to do one thing, and then next day do something else.
- E.g. when we moved to Countryside, we know it is God's will for us to be here. Even when at that time, neighbours complained and there were kind souls who said this is not the place for the church, we did not waver or hurriedly go to look for another place, saying it is not God's will for us to be here. Why? Because God doesn't work this way.
- **7) Examine our lust, desire for security etc.**
- Why when we see things moving or opportunities opening, we react and change our mind easily?
- Chances are we have not dealt with our lust, greed or desire for security.
- E.g. God says stop, but we move because there is an opportunity opening up. And then we say God has told us to move, that is because something else has influenced us like comfort and lust of the flesh.
- E.g. God says move, but we take donkey years to move just a small step, then our desire for security is very strong.
- So we need get rid of our lust, get rid of our desire for security, to get rid of our UNBELIEF.
- **8) FEAR = UNBELIEF**
- Since Faith is the opposite of Fear, and also opposite of UNBELIEF.
- Many people did not realise fear is what caused them to miss God's grace and the destiny God has for them.
- E.g. God says 'ask your boss to increase your pay', but you have the fear of men. It is unlikely you will get a pay rise.
- Fear is what makes us to be slaves – slaves before men, thus losing all the opportunities God has for us. We dare not ask, dare not insist, dare not propose.
- **9) Don't be too casual with words.**
- We should not say things like 'see how it goes'. That is not faith.



- E.g. you do healing ministry, you should not say 'Try to see if you can stand up'. No, we must say 'Stand up, take up your mat and go home.'
- Words like this reveal the UNBELIEF we have in us, and so we must examine the Words we say.
  
- **10) HONORING HAS GOT TO DO WITH BELIEVING.**
- When people in Jesus' hometown did not honour Jesus, He could not perform miracles there.
- Later, the verse says, 'because of their UNBELIEF'
- E.g. a preacher delivering the Word. When we could not honour him, it means also that we do not believe what he says.
  
- **11) GOD IS CONTINUOUSLY TRAINING OUR FAITH**
- That is the one thing He would do for every of His children.
- As such, we got to avail ourselves for training of faith.
- If we skip the training, avoid the challenges that God places ahead of us to mould our faith, we will soon realise we will be going in circles.
  
- Training of faith is not necessary first having faith in small things, then faith in big things.
- This is humanism – human's thinking.
- Of course, for cases of David, he encountered the lion and the bear, before he encountered Goliath. That could be the training God has placed for David to increase his faith.
- But training of faith is more about the training of OBEDIENCE. It is how much we want to obey Him, and act based on what He says.
- Once we acquire that, then there is nothing that God cannot work through us. All we need is to hear what He says and act.
- If God says 'Still the sun', then we would still the sun.
- If God says 'Part the sea', then we would part the sea.
- It is all about hearing God's word and doing accordingly to what He says.