

“I BELIEVE! HELP MY UNBELIEF!”

Mark 9:17-24

Introduction:

- 1. We live in a time when unbelief is growing rapidly in our nation.**
 - a. Fewer today believe in God than just fifty years ago.**
 - b. Our educational system has effectively outlawed God.**
 - c. The media commonly portrays believers as ignorant, backward, narrow, bigoted, mean and hateful.**
 - d. Many European countries regard the idea of God as outdated and irrelevant.**

- 2. Many who believe in God and His Son are often are torn with doubts.**
 - a. As a result, they have no help in life and no hope in death.**
 - b. Instead of trusting in God, they try to make it through life alone.**
 - c. They are like the father of the demon possessed boy who said: “Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:23,24).**

- 3. Faith in God and His Son is essential to happiness in this life and in the life to come.**
 - a. David said: “I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13).**
 - b. John wrote: “And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith” (1 John 5:4).**

Discussion:

I. WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN GOD!

- A. We must have faith in the fact of God’s existence.**

“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).

B. I believe in God for several simple, common sense reasons.

1. I believe in God because a creation requires a Creator.

“For every house is built by someone, but He Who built all things is God” (Hebrews 3:4).

2. It is axiomatic that nothing comes from nothing.

a. There are only two possible explanations for the origin of the universe - Mind (God) or matter.

b. Does a nest create a bird to sit in it, or does the bird create the nest?

3. I believe in the existence of God because of *biogenesis*.

a. Biogenesis is the most fundamental law of science.

b. It simply says that life can only come from life.

c. This means that neither evolution nor the “big bang” theory can be true; only a living Being can create other living beings (Genesis 1:1, 27).

4. One would have to be God to know God does not exist.

a. One would have to know all things for the one thing he did not know might be that God exists.

b. One would have to be everywhere for the one place he had not been might be the place where God is.

C. I believe in God because He has revealed Himself in His Word.

1. The Bible’s historical and scientific accuracy, fulfilled prophecy, amazing unity, providential preservation, and wholesome influence on the lives of nations and individuals prove it could have only come from God.

2. We know there is a God from His creation; we know what He is like from His revelation (Psalm 19:1).

II. WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN OTHERS!

(2)

A. Jesus had faith in His apostles.

- 1. He took twelve ordinary men from everyday backgrounds, and trained them for only three years for the most crucial task in human history.**
- 2. Only one of the apostles failed the course; the rest, save one, died as martyrs to His Cause.**
- 3. These men lacked faith (Matthew 17:19, 20; Mark 16:14).**
- 4. They did not understand His kingdom (Acts 1:6).**
- 5. They quarreled over who would be the greatest in His kingdom (Matthew 18:1-5; 20:20-28).**
- 6. They denied Him and ran away when He was arrested (Matthew 26:31-35, 56, 69-75).**
- 7. Following the resurrection, these same men boldly proclaimed Jesus to be the Christ despite threats, fears, beatings, and eventually martyrdom.**

B. Jesus especially had faith in Simon.

- 1. He gave Simon the name “Peter” meaning “rock,” signifying the strength he would have (John 1:40-42).**
- 2. Peter boldly proclaimed Christ on Pentecost (Act 2).**

C. Barnabas had faith in others.

- 1. His name was Joseph, but the apostles called him “Barnabas” which means “son of encouragement.”**
- 2. Barnabas vouched for Saul when he wanted to join the disciples in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-28).**
- 3. He stood up for John Mark who had deserted them on the first missionary journey (Acts 15:36-41).**
- 4. His judgment was right as Paul came to see (2 Tim. 4:11).**

III. WE MUST HAVE FAITH IN OURSELVES!

A. We must not be arrogant, proud, or egotistic.

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to

think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith” (Romans 12:3).

1. We must have enough confidence to use the talents God has given us (Matthew 25:14-30).
2. We must be strong in the strength which the Lord supplies (Ephesians 6:10).

B. Paul had faith in himself because he had faith in Christ (Philippians 4:13).

C. One who has no faith in himself will accomplish little in the Lord’s work.

1. One who has faith in God and in himself does not plan to fail.
2. A candidate for public office was asked what he would do if he was defeated. He replied, “I haven’t thought about it because I am going to be elected.”

Conclusion:

1. We can have faith that we are saved if we have obeyed the Gospel (1 John 5:13).
2. The Holy Spirit bears witness with the spirit of a Christian telling him he is a child of God (Romans 8:16).
 - a. The Holy Spirit tells me to believe in Jesus as the Christ (Mark 16:15,16); my spirit tells me I have believed.
 - b. The Holy Spirit tells me to repent of my sins (Acts 2:38); my spirit tells me I have repented.
 - c. The Holy Spirit tells me to confess my faith in Jesus as the Christ (Romans 10:8-10); my spirit tells me I have confessed.
 - d. The Holy Spirit tells me to be immersed in water for the forgiveness of my sins (Acts 2:38); Romans 6:4); my spirit tells me I have been baptized.
3. If I have done what the Spirit tells me to do to be saved, then I know I am saved for God cannot lie (Titus 1:2)!

