

“Increase Our Faith”
John 9:26-34

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - This Morning To:
 - John 9 - Where We Witnessed:
 - Another Miracle Of Healing:
 - By Jesus' Own Hands!
 - The Miracle Of Giving Sight:
 - To A Man Who Had Been:
 - “Blind From His Birth!” (9:1)
2. But - As The Story:
 - In This Chapter Continues To Unfold:
 - We Will See That:
 - The Miracle Hasn't Stopped!
 - Because - As Jesus:
 - Opened The Man's Physical Eyes:
 - By Anointing Them With Clay - And:
 - Having Him Wash:
 - In The Pool Of Siloam!
 - Jesus Was Also:
 - Slowly But Surely:
 - Opening The Man's Spiritual Eyes:
 - Which Will Eventually Result In:
 - The Healing & Saving:
 - Of His Soul!
 - 3. But - Before This Saving Work:
 - Of God Will Be “Made Manifest” In Him Fully:
 - We Will See:
 - His *Growing Belief* - And:
 - The *Growing Unbelief*:
 - Of The Jewish Leaders:
 - Go Head To Head!
 - And - We Find This Contest:
 - In 9:26-34 - Where:
 - Immediately After The Man Gave:
 - A Faithful Testimony:
 - About The Work Of Jesus:
 - In His Life!
 - The Testimony Of:
 - 9:25 - “One Thing I Know, That Whereas I Was Blind, Now I See!”
 - Immediately After This:
 - The Trial & The Questions Continue!
 - “Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? / He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? / Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. / We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. / The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. / Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. / Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. / If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. / They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out!”
 - 4. One Thing That We Can See:
 - From This Final Back & Forth Between:
 - The Jewish Leaders & The Blind Man:
 - Is That - They Are Both:
 - Growing In Their Understanding & Judgment About Jesus!
 - However - They Are Growing:

- In Opposite Directions!
- One Is Moving:
 - In The Right Direction!
 - While The Others Are Moving:
 - In The Wrong Direction!

5. And - It Is The Jewish Leaders:
- Who Are Moving In The Wrong Direction!
 - Because - They Are Growing:
 - In Their Unbelief!
 - And - Their Unbelief:
 - Is Closing Their Eyes:
 - More & More:
 - To The Truth & Testimony:
 - About Jesus - That This Man Gave To Them!
 - And - In Doing So:
 - Their Unbelief:
 - Is Causing Their Hearts:
 - To Harden Even More:
 - As Well!

6. And So - The First Thing:
- We Need To Consider From These Verses Is:

1. *The Progression Of Unbelief!*

- That We Find Taking Place:
 - In The Hearts Of These Religious Leaders!
 - So That - You Might See:
 - The Great Danger Of Unbelief!
 - And - What We Can See:
 - Is That:
- Unbelief Will Resist The Truth! (2x)
 - Just Like The Unbelief That We Find Again:
 - In 9:26 - Where We Are Told:
 - “Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?”
 - This Is The Third Time:
 - In This Chapter That:
 - We Find These Same Questions:
 - Being Asked Of The Blind Man!
 - And - It Is Also The Third Time:
 - That The Pharisees Asked These Questions:
 - At This Hearing!
 - Twice - To Him Directly!
 - And - Once To His Parents!
 - And - That Is Why John Stresses The Point:
 - By Saying - “Again!”
 - So - Again & Again & Again:
 - They Asked These Questions!
 - **IE:** Like A Child At Times! “Are We There Yet?”
 - But Why?
 - Not Just Out Of Impatience!
 - Though That Was Part Of It!
 - And Was Mutual!
 - But Because - They Refused To Accept:
 - The Man’s Own Testimony:
 - Of What Jesus Did for Him!
 - And - Even Though:
 - At Their Own Public Hearing:
 - The Evidence To Prove His Testimony:
 - Was Mounting Up!
 - Their Unbelief:

- Resisted & Refused To Hear:
 - The Truth!
- But - As We Will See:
 - Their Unbelief Continued To Progress!
 - And - Grow - But:
 - In The Wrong Direction!
 - Because - Then We See That:
- Unbelief Will Revile The Truth! (2x)
 - That Is - It Will Attack:
 - Both The Truth & Those Who:
 - Testify To The Truth!
 - And - In 2:28-29 - After:
 - Being Baited A Bit By:
 - The Blind Man - Who Was Also Getting Frustrated!
 - We Are Told That:
 - “Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses’ disciples. / We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is!”
 - To “Revile” Means That They:
 - Ridiculed & Insulted Him!
 - Even Bringing Curses Upon Him With Their Words!
 - And - By This:
 - They Showed Their True Hearts!
 - Had They No Grace Or Tact:
 - Or Even A Sense Of Decorum?
 - So - They Tried To Attack His Character!
 - After All - They Were Followers:
 - Of Moses! Who Was:
 - A True & Faithful Prophet!
 - And - They Weren’t Wrong!
 - Deuteronomy 34:10 - “There arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face!”
 - But - The Blind Man Was Following:
 - Someone Else! Who Only:
 - *He* Thought Was A Prophet!
 - But, What Was The Basis For *His* Authority?
 - Then - They Tried To Attack Jesus’ Character!
 - They Knew That God Personally:
 - Spoke To Moses!
 - And - They Weren’t Wrong About This Either!
 - Exodus 33:11 - “And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend!”
 - Yet - They Didn’t Know The Origin Or Source:
 - Of Jesus!
 - And - Even Though:
 - They Heard Jesus’ Words & Saw Jesus’ Works:
 - For Themselves!
 - Instead Of Drawing Closer:
 - In Faith - They Distanced Themselves:
 - Even More!
 - Because - Their Unbelief:
 - Infected Their Hearts - So That:
 - They Reviled & Attacked The Truth:
 - Even When They Heard It!
 - **IE:** This Is What Unbelief Is Like! An Infection!
 - But - Their Unbelief:
 - Wouldn’t Stop There!
 - Because - It Kept Growing & Moving:
 - In The Wrong Direction!

- Away From The Lord!
- Because:
- Unbelief Will (Even Further) Resent The Truth!
 - We See This Taking Place In:
 - 9:34a - Where - After Hearing The Man's:
 - Final Reply - Instead Of Considering:
 - The Logic In His Argument:
 - They Continued Their Personal Attacks!
 - "They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us?"
 - This Shows Us That:
 - The Superstition That The Disciples Of Jesus Had:
 - Early In The Chapter (9:2):
 - Came From The Highest Authorities Themselves!
 - But - What Else Does This Show?
 - *They Weren't Thinking Clearly!*
 - They Were So Incensed At The Man:
 - That Their Own Arguments:
 - Flew Out The Window!
 - If He Was - As They *Now* Said He Was:
 - "Altogether Born In Sins!"
 - Then - By Their Own Admission:
 - He Once Was Blind - But:
 - Now Could See!
 - They Were Admitting To:
 - What They Didn't Want To Believe:
 - In The First Place!
 - But - Oh - How Bitter & Spiteful & Resentful:
 - These Words Were - When They:
 - Spewed Them Out Of Their Mouths!
 - All - Because They Would Not:
 - Believe The Truth!
 - But - Their Unbelief:
 - Festered - To The Point Of:
 - Showing Us That - In The End:
- Unbelief Will Reject The Truth - Altogether!
 - Since - At The End Of 9:34:
 - We Are Told:
 - "And They Cast Him Out!"
 - They Removed Him From Their Presence:
 - And Likely - Put Him Out Of:
 - The Fellowship Of The Synagogue:
 - According To Their Threat! (9:22)
 - But - In Rejecting Him:
 - They Were Rejecting:
 - His Testimony & The Truth:
 - About Jesus!
- And - This Is Always:
 - Where Unbelief Will Lead!
 - And - This Is Why:
 - Unbelief Is Such A Dangerous Thing!
 - Unbelief Will Never Get Better:
 - Unless A True Work Of God:
 - Stops It In Its Tracks!
 - Instead - It Will Progressively Grow:
 - Downward - And - Away:
 - From The Truth!
 - From The Gospel!
 - From The Lord!
 - From Resistance:

- To Reviling:
 - To Resentment:
 - To Final Rejection!
- And - Whenever You See Yourself:
 - Anywhere Along This Spectrum:
 - Of Unbelief!
 - Cry Out To The Lord!
 - For His Mercy & Grace!
 - Because - Faith Can Only Be Born:
 - Through His Grace!
- But - Once God Visits You:
 - And - Brings To You:
 - The Gift Of Faith - In Jesus Christ!
 - Then - There Can Be Growth:
 - Of Another Sort - And Growth:
 - In Another Direction!
 - The Right Direction!
- And That Is Why:
 - In These Same Verses We Can See:

2. ***The Progression Of Belief!***

- That Takes Place:
 - In The Heart Of The Man:
 - Who - Once Was Blind:
 - But - Now Could See:
 - With His Own Two Eyes!
 - And Though - His Belief:
 - Had Not Yet Reached Its Fulness:
 - As It Will 9:38!
 - Yet - God Was Opening His Eyes:
 - Wider & Wider:
 - To The Truth & The Gospel:
 - Of Christ!
 - And So - We See That:
 - True Belief Will Bring About:
- New Interest:
 - In The Things Of God!
 - This Is What We Find In The Man's Response:
 - To The Third Round Of Questions:
 - He Faced In 9:27!
 - "He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?"
 - Now - Even Though He's A Bit Snarky & Disrespectful:
 - To His Religious Authorities!
 - Implying That - They Were As Deaf - As:
 - He Had Been Blind!
 - He Reveals Something:
 - About The Change That Had:
 - Started Taking Hold In His Own Heart!
 - With A Single Word:
 - "Also" - He Suggests That:
 - He Had *Already* Decided:
 - To Follow Jesus!
 - At Least - On Some Level!
 - And So - Even Though:
 - Unbelief Is What Will Close Your Eyes & Hearts:
 - To The Truth! God Was Starting:
 - To Open This Man's Spiritual Eyes - To See:
 - The Truth About Jesus!

- And - That He Was Worthy:
 - To Be Followed!
- Is There Any Of This Kind Of Interest:
 - In Your Own Heart:
 - About The Things Of God & Christ?
 - Any Interest In:
 - Following Him?
 - Learning From Him?
 - This Is What The Word “Disciple” Means!
 - If So - This Is Evidence That:
 - God Has Given You The Gift:
 - Of Faith!
 - And - Even Though It May Be:
 - In A State Of Infancy:
 - And Is A Small & Tender Faith!
 - It Is Still There!
 - And - You Should Praise Him:
 - For His Gift! But Then:
 - Pray That Your Faith:
 - Might Grow Even More!
 - **IE:** Even As Parents Love To See Their Baby Grow From Stage To Stage!
 - Because - True Belief:
 - Will Also Grow! And:
 - Will Bring With It:
- New Impressions:
 - About The Things Of God!
 - We See This Next In:
 - 9:30 - Where - The Man Begins His Extended Speech (9:30-33) - By Telling Those Authorities / Experts:
 - “Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes!”
 - Ever Since Jesus Put The Clay:
 - On His Eyes - This Man Had Started:
 - To See Things In A Whole New Light!
 - And - Even Though:
 - He Didn’t Know Exactly:
 - Where Jesus Was From Either!
 - He Did Know:
 - What Jesus Could Do!
 - And - God Was Helping Him:
 - To See The Connection:
 - Between The Two!
 - **IE:** Like Those Old “Connect-The-Dot” Puzzles! At First - Just Dots Scattered All Over The Page! But Gradually - From Point-To-Point - A Picture Emerges!
 - And So - By Connecting The Dots:
 - Of What Jesus Could Do:
 - The Man Was Beginning To See:
 - Where Jesus Was From!
 - And - What Was Such “A Marvelous Thing” To The Man:
 - Or - What Was Such A Great Surprise To Him:
 - Was That His Own Religious Leaders:
 - Couldn’t Connect Those Dots!
 - They Couldn’t See:
 - Where All Of Jesus’ Signs:
 - Were Pointing & Leading!
 - **IE:** Like Seeing The Signs Leading One Way, But Still Believing You Are Going The Other Way!
 - The Blind Man Just *Couldn’t* Believe:

- That His Leaders *Wouldn't* Believe:
 - That What Jesus Did:
 - Revealed Who Jesus Was!
- But - Even This New Impression:
 - About Jesus - Was Not His Own!
 - It Was A Revelation & A Gift:
 - From God!
- Remember When Jesus Asked His Disciples:
 - "Whom Say Ye That I Am?"
 - In Matthew 16:16 - Peter Answered:
 - "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!"
 - And Though His Impression Of Jesus:
 - Was Right! How Did He Come:
 - To Know This Great Truth?
 - "Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven!" (Matthew 16:17)
- The Same Thing Was True:
 - For The Blind Man! And:
 - The Same Thing Is True:
 - For You!
 - When God Himself Opens Your Eyes:
 - To The Truths Of The Gospel!
 - The Truth About God:
 - And His True Nature!
 - As Holy! (3x)
 - The Truth About You:
 - And Your True Nature!
 - All Sinful!
 - The Truth About Jesus:
 - And His True Nature!
 - Only Savior!
 - When You Believe These Truths:
 - Give God The Praise For:
 - Revealing Them To You - And:
 - For "Connecting The Dots" For You - And:
 - Bringing You To Faith!
 - But Then - Pray!
 - Pray That Your Faith:
 - Might Grow Higher Still!
 - Just Like The Faith:
 - Of Our Blind Man!
 - It Continued To Grow:
 - To Bring About:
- New Insight:
 - Into The Things Of God!
 - When We Look At 9:29 & 9:31
 - We See A Startling Contrast Between:
 - The Jewish Leaders & The Blind Man!
 - In 9:29 - The Leaders Said About Jesus:
 - "We Know Not!" - Even Though:
 - They Were In The Business:
 - To Know About These Things!
 - But - In 9:31 - The Man Says:
 - "Now We Know!"
 - And - In A Way:
 - Brings Himself Up To:
 - Their Level!
 - Which Incensed The Leaders:
 - Even More!

- 9:34 - "Dost Thou Teach Us?"
- They Would Have Done Well:
 - To Listen To The Man!
 - Because - What He Knew About Jesus:
 - Was Far More Clear & Reasonable Than:
 - What They Claimed To Know About Jesus!
 - Let's Listen Again To The Man Ourselves!
 - 9:31-33 - "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. / Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. / If this man were not of God, he could do nothing!"
- All The Propositions Made In These Verses:
 - Are True!:
 - Based On Scripture Itself!
 - It Is True - That:
 - God Does Not Hear The Prayer:
 - Of Sinners!
 - Psalm 66:18 - "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me!"
 - Though - We Might Add:
 - He Does Hear Only One Prayer From Sinners!
 - Luke 18:13 - "God Be Merciful To Me A Sinner!"
 - However - It Is Also True - That:
 - The Prayer Of One Who:
 - Worships & Obeys God Aright:
 - *Is* Heard By God!
 - Proverbs 15:29 - "The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous!"
 - And - It Was Also True:
 - That There Was No Record In Scripture:
 - Of Anyone "Born Blind" Being:
 - Healed!
- And - After Putting All Of These Truths Together:
 - In His Mind - The Conclusion He Made:
 - In 9:33 - Was Right!
 - "If This Man Were Not Of God, He Could Do Nothing!"
 - And - This Would Have Been:
 - The Answer To Their Question:
 - Where Is Jesus From?
 - Jesus Was & Is:
 - "Of God!"
 - He Had To Be:
 - A Man Of God:
 - To Be Able To Do What He Did For Him!
- The Logic Of This Man's Words:
 - Is Clear! And:
 - The Insight Given To This Man:
 - Was Bright!
 - However - It Put Him:
 - In Direct Opposition To:
 - The Opinion Of His Leaders!
 - 9:16 - "This Man Is Not Of God!"
- So - What Was The Difference?
 - God Himself Broke Through:
 - The Blindness Of That Man:
 - And Gave Him Greater Sight & Insight Than:
 - He Ever Thought Possible!
 - And - By God's Grace:
 - His Faith In Jesus:
 - As A Man From God:

- Was Growing!
- And - This Is How True Faith:
 - Always Grows!
 - Ever Upward!
- Is Your Faith Like This Man's Faith?
 - If So - Praise God For It!
 - And Then - Pray To God:
 - For More Of It!

Conclusion:

1. Oh, How We Need:
 - This Kind Of Faith!
 - A Faith That Grows!
 - Just Like That Blind Man's Faith!
 - Which Still Had Yet To Blossom:
 - Into A Saving Faith:
 - In Christ!
 - So - What Do You Need To Do?
 - And - Where Do You Need To Go?
 - For This Kind Of Faith?
 - Like Jesus' Disciples:
 - In Luke 17:5 - Go To & Pray To The Lord!
 - And Plea - "Increase Our Faith!"
 - Increase My Faith, Lord:
 - In You!
 - Because - Without It:
 - We Are Nothing!
 - But - With It:
 - We Have Everything!
 - God Alone:
 - Can Increase Your Faith!
2. But - We Also Need:
 - This Kind Of Faith:
 - Because Of The Power & Danger:
 - Of Unbelief!
 - Which Can Even Rob Believers Of Our:
 - Interest In & Insights About:
 - The Things Of God!
 - So - What Do You Need To Do?
 - And - Where Do You Need To Go?
 - For This Kind Of Faith?
 - Like The Father Of The Child:
 - Who Was Possessed By A Devil:
 - In Mark 9:24 - Go To The Lord:
 - And Cry Out To Him:
 - "Lord, I Believe! Help Thou Mine Unbelief!"
3. And - You Can Do So:
 - Because His Ears Are Open:
 - To Your Cry! (Psalm 34:15)

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com