

Lord Help My Unbelief

Sunday PM, March 17, 2024

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Straight Paths Bible Church

Hebrews 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

- I. It is so easy to say that we trust God and we believe in Him.
 - A. But words are easy to say and we depend upon them to hide the unbelief that is really in our heart.
 - B. The only way we know whether our profession of faith in the Lord is real and true is when it is put to the test.
 - C. Of course, no one wants tests and trials, and we all want to just glide through life comfortably and pleasantly, without any troubles.
 - D. But in a world like this that is impossible:

John 16:33 ... In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

- E. We can only “be of good cheer” if we truly trust in the Lord.
- II. The trial of faith reveals to us all the matters of life in which we do not trust in the Lord.
 - A. For example, have you ever said, “Well, all we can do now is pray”?
 - B. What do we mean by this?
 - C. If we truly trusted the Lord we would say something like this: “Well, now maybe we can pray effectually about this matter.”
 - D. “All we can do is pray” really implies that we have given up hope in the matter.
 - E. It has the sound of, “Well, we can’t do anything to fix it, so we will see if God can.”
 1. But it is an expression of hopelessness in the matter.
 - F. It is saying that we do not know what else to do, or we would fix it ourselves.
 - G. Our trust in the Lord is to us the end of things, and not the beginning of things.
 - H. We live trying to be God ourselves until we hit the wall, and then we consider it faith to throw it all to God and see if He can or will do something about it.
- III. We say we love the Lord and want to be with Him forever, but for now we live so involved with the world and our own cares that we seldom spend time with Him, or even think about Him.
 - A. It is like a woman who says she loves her husband but continues to live her life separately from him.
 - B. She is off on her vacations with her girlfriends, or going and doing things with other people while he sits at home alone.
 - C. She has her own career and social circle and interests that leave him completely out of her life, except for an occasional passing meeting at their house.
 - D. Does she love her husband or herself?
 - E. Is she interested more in him, or in her own pleasure and outside interests?
 - F. What will come of a relationship like that?
 - G. Then what will ever come of a relationship with God like that?
 - H. Is that real love and trust when it is only in words and not in actions?
 - I. If we love the Lord we will be his and not anothers.

J. And if we trust the Lord we will give our life to Him and not to other people or to live in the pleasures of this world.

IV. It is unbelief to not consider the Lord first, and to lean upon Him FIRST.

- A. It is unbelief when we only think of Him LAST; as a last resort, after all else fails.
- B. How offensive that must be to the Lord!
- C. It is no wonder that He was so angry with the children of Israel for their unbelief.
- D. He is GOD, He is not a man; and what He says He will DO, so we can trust in that, and rest in that.
- E. If we can trust our eternal soul to Him, we should be able to trust our short, vain earthly life to his care, in all things.
- F. It is unbelief when we get upset when things do not go according to the way we think they should.
- G. It is unbelief when we despair and reek of hopelessness when a child goes astray, or someone abandons the church, or when sin is uncovered in someone's life that is close to us.

Psalm 42:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

Psalm 27:13-14 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

- H. Over and over the Bible tells us to wait on the Lord and to trust in Him in all circumstances of life.
- I. Over and over we read the testimonies of those who have come before us for thousands of years as they tell us that the only way to live is to live trusting in the Lord – first, not last.
- J. Our unbelief is revealed in the fact that we do really, truly believe that He:

Ephesians 3:20 ... is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

1. We use it as a crutch, but we do not live in it as very truth.
2. We fall back on it when all hope is gone, but we do not believe it as long as we think we might be able to take care of the matter ourselves.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

- K. The Lord, He is God; He is the Almighty God, and if we truly trust in Him we should run to Him first in all things.
- L. If we love Him we should live close to Him, and not far from Him;
 1. When family or friends move far away they cease to be a real part of our lives.
 2. The reason is that they involve themselves with other people and are no longer daily involved in one another's lives, so they are not on one another's minds as much.
 3. It works the same way with the Lord; walk with Him daily; fellowship with Him often, and when calamity or problems appear He is only a prayer away.