

Faith vs. Unbelief

by Bill McLeod

Unbelief is a sin that excludes people from heaven, grieves God, and prevents God from working, but faith is the key to effective prayer and a right relationship with God.

Duration: 40:59

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 8:11, John 3:36, Hebrews 3:12-13, Hebrews 3:15, Hebrews 3:19, Hebrews 4:7

Topics: "Faith"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher shares a personal testimony of witnessing a miraculous transformation in a family. The mother, who had been praying for a miracle, saw three of her sons become missionaries, including one who became an outstanding missionary in Brazil. The preacher emphasizes the power of belief in God's ability to bring about change and overcome any problem in our lives. He encourages listeners to reject Satan's lies of unbelief and instead trust in God's control and ability to bring victory and blessings. The sermon also includes a story from the Bible about a king who doubted God's ability to end a drought, and as a result, he died without experiencing the miracle. The preacher concludes by urging listeners to cast their cares upon God and have faith in His care for them. He also encourages the practice of writing out Bible verses as a way to internalize and remember God's Word.

Transcript

In Hebrews chapter 3, we have a text, verse 12, where God addresses brethren, which means, of course, Christian believers such as you and I. Take heed, therefore, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. It's possible for a Christian to have an evil heart of unbelief, and to depart in some sense from God, to be hardened in his heart through the deceitfulness of sin.

That's why we have this injunction, this exhortation here to Christian believers, to take heed, to beware, lest this happen to you. The most important element in prayer is faith. Therefore, the greatest problem in relation to prayer is unbelief.

And when God fails to answer our prayers, it is almost always because of our own unbelief. God wanted to, God would have, but we prevented him by our unbelief. The problem is this, though, that the average Christian does not think that unbelief is a sin.

He thinks it's unfortunate. He says, poor little me, I can't believe God. I wish I could, but I really can't.

And he's not taking any personal responsibility for his own unbelief. Unbelief was the poison that Satan first injected into Adam and Eve. He began with a yes and ended with a no.

Yes! Has God said? Do you think God really meant that? Do you think that those things will follow that God said? And he threw a question mark into Eve's heart, and that's where it all began. But unbelief is most certainly a sin. And we're going to look at this particular problem tonight, and close by appealing to some things we would consider to be antidotes to unbelief.

Let's notice, first of all, the Bible declares plainly that unbelief excludes people from heaven. A text that Charles Spurgeon often ended his sermons with was Mark 16. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believes not shall be damned, condemned.

Baptism has nothing to do with salvation, and Spurgeon well understood that. He never preached that at heart. But he that believes will be saved, and he that does not believe will be damned.

That's exactly what Jesus Christ said in John chapter 3. He that believes on the Son has everlasting life. He that believes not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. Right now, if you do not believe on Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, the wrath, the anger of God is even now resting on you.

But like it says in Ecclesiastes, because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. What does the next verse say? Though a sinner do evil a hundred times and his days be prolonged, he might live to be a hundred years old and be a wicked Christ-rejecting, God-hating sinner. Don't read it wrong.

Though a sinner do evil a hundred times and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God. He that believes not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. Or Revelation 21, verse 8, he says, The fearful, and the unbelieving, and the abominable, and the whoremonger, and the sorcerers, and the idolaters, and all liars will have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

My dear friend, fearful words, the unbelieving, will have their part, God says, in the lake of fire, the second death. Unbelief closes the gates of heaven and the door of the sinner. I cannot be saved unless I can say, My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior Divine.

Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine. Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Does your heart leap out at that text, at that truth? I trust so, because if not, there is no salvation.

The Bible says in John chapter 3, this is the condemnation, that light is coming to the world, but men love darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. They didn't want it. They didn't want Christ.

They didn't want His salvation. Of Judas Iscariot, in John's Gospel, chapter 13, it's written that after the soft Satan entered into him, and Jesus Christ said, That thou doest do quickly, and Judas went out. And did you ever notice this? The Spirit of God said, and it was night, eternal night for Judas.

He had just crossed that unseen line, a divide between God's patience and God's wrath. Satan had entered his heart, and through wicked unbelief, for the Scripture says, Jesus Christ knew from the

beginning who they were that did not believe, and who would betray Him. He knew who they were.

And again, the Bible says, The Lord knows them that are His, and let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. If you name the name of Christ, then break with sin by God's power and grace. He that sinneth has not seen God.

He doesn't know God. That person that practices sin, it excludes people then from heaven. Secondly, it grieves God greatly.

How do we know this? Because Hebrews 11, 6 says this, that without faith it is impossible to please God. For he that comes to God must believe that He is, that God is, a living, eternal Spirit, King of kings and Lord of lords. And secondly, that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him, actually, literally, that seek Him out.

And that much you must believe, or you can never please God. In the Old Testament, there was a drought in Samaria, and the drought went on and on until people were dying from the famine. And on Elisha the prophet came the man of God and said, Tomorrow, about this time, the famine will end.

And a lord on whose hand the king leaned said, Ha! If God should make windows in heaven, this thing might be. And Elisha said, You'll see it with your eyes, but you'll never eat of it. And so it fell out unto him, because the people threw upon him in the gate, and he died.

Why is this recorded in the Bible? Because God wants us to understand that unbelief is a very serious thing to God. There are two things only of which I'm aware in the Word of God concerning which the Bible says, that Jesus Christ marveled. He marveled at the unbelief.

And again, He marveled at the face of a Gentile who didn't have the Word of God the way the Jewish people had it. Zacharias was told by the angel of God that although he and his wife were both well past the age of childbearing, they were going to have a son. And he could not believe it.

So the angel said, Thou shalt be dumb until the day these things are fulfilled. And when Zacharias came out of the temple, he was speechless, and he beckoned with his hands and tried to make the people understand what had happened in the temple. And he never spoke until after John was born.

Again, God's way of showing us how God is grieved and displeased when you and I allow unbelief to take over in our hearts. Sarah laughed in the tent when she heard the angel talking to Abraham and promising him a son. And God said, Why did Sarah laugh? And Sarah said, I laughed not.

And God said, Nay, you did laugh. God always puts His finger on unbelief. God hates it because of what it is.

It's a distrust of the very nature of God. It's man's way of saying, God, you're not really loved. It's a Christian's way of saying, God, all things do not work together for good to them that love God.

It's a Christian's way of saying, God, you're not in control. It's a Christian's way or the world's way of saying, the devil's having his own way. He's in control.

God hates it. Unbelief robs the Christian of joy and peace. I consider this text in Acts 13 to be a sort of a picture of a normal Christian life.

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. Then Paul says this in Romans 15, 13. It's like a prayer, sort of appalling benediction.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Notice those two words, my friend. In believing, God can't fill an unbelieving Christian heart with joy and peace because joy and peace, it says so distinctly and clearly, there comes when we believe.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost. I think of 1 Peter 1.8, where Peter says exactly what Paul is saying in slightly different words. Whom having not seen, you love.

In whom though now you see him not yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. So God through Paul says in believing, and God through Peter says yes, believing, you'll rejoice, you'll have all the joy, all the joy you'll ever need. But unbelief obviously then robs the Christian of joy and peace.

And some of you have gone to the prayer room, you've been counseled with again and again, but you've gone there in unbelief and you've come out in unbelief and you don't really think it's going to work. You don't believe that God really heard. You don't believe that anything really happened.

And you're so right. Do you know what it says in James chapter 1? If any man lack wisdom, and you could take the word wisdom out and put in anything you want there, if any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God that gives to all men liberally and upraised. That means God does not reproach us for praying and asking.

And it shall be given him, but let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of God.

You'll get nothing from God without faith. And I remember one time as I, the full impact of that statement in James 1 hit me. I argued with God years ago.

I said, God, why do you have to put it this way? Why do you have to be this way? God didn't answer me right away. As I read his word more, I came to understand what an awful sin unbelief is to God. Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.

And back with that was their wicked unbelief. It prevents God from working. In the Psalms, it says that Israel, they turned back, they tempted God, they limited the Holy One of Israel.

They tied him up. They put him in a box and nailed the lid down, so God couldn't be the kind of God he really was. It is, of course, not true that God is limited in his actions to the faith of his people, but it is true in a very serious sense that in this present time, God has willingly reduced himself to the faith of his people.

And it's written of Jesus in Mark chapter 6, in Nazareth, his hometown, he could there do no mighty works because of their unbelief, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. That wasn't a problem in Capernaum. Their problem was pride.

But in Nazareth, the problem was wicked unbelief. And God couldn't work there because the people did not believe. It's faith that unlocks the heavens.

It's faith that allows God to pour out his Spirit and do the things he can do and wants to do. I picked up a little book many, many years ago in a bookstore in Winnipeg. The title of the book was A History of American Revivals of Religion by a Reverend Calvin Colton.

I got it for 25 cents, and I wouldn't sell it to you for \$50. But don't try me on 100. I do have some Scotch blood in my veins.

There are many valuable things in that book. Do you know why he wrote it? Because British Christians, that is, in the British Isles, were writing. They'd heard about these great revivals sweeping through the states, and they wanted to have an account of it.

So Colton took it on himself to write this book. Masterful English, very challenging and readable. But here's what he said that I want to share with you.

He said, these revivals never came to a church that did not believe that God would do it. And the revivals never missed the church that believed that God would do it. To me, that was worth a lot more than 25 cents.

Then, you know, it destroys the efficacy, the power of the Word of God. The Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. No faith, they heard the Word.

No faith, the Word of God had no power in their life, no response on their part. Not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. And then, as a contrast, when Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica in chapter 2, he said, we thank God without ceasing because when you receive the Word of God, which you heard of us, you received it not as the Word of men, but as the Word of God, which effectually works in you that believe, and of course has no power in the heart that does not believe.

It robs the Word of God of its power. It's living, powerful. The Word of God in Psalm 29, the Bible says it breaks the cedars.

Proud people are broken by the Word of God. It shakes the wilderness, that's missions. The Word of God can turn a desert and make it blossom like the rose, spiritually speaking, and that's happened in many areas of the world.

It causes the hinds to calve Christians who know their Bibles and are surrendered to the Word and will of God in His Word. They begin bearing spiritual children, the Word of God, but if it's not mixed with faith, it cannot effectually work in your heart, nor yet in mine. And then it robs prayer of its power, its proper power.

In Matthew chapter 21, Jesus Christ said, all things whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing you shall receive. What was the word? The word was believing you shall receive. Or in Mark chapter 11 where Jesus Christ said, what things soever you desire when you pray, believe that you receive them and you shall have them.

In Luke's Gospel chapter 9, and the story is recorded in Matthew and also in Mark, in the beginning of chapter 9 in Luke's Gospel, Jesus Christ talked with His twelve disciples and it says He gave them power, that is authority, over all demons. And in the same chapter, further down, they tried to exercise that power by casting a demon out of a child and they were not able to do it. Did you ever consider that? Jesus was able to do it.

What did He do? When the Father came and said, I brought them to your disciples and they could not help Him, what did Christ say? All faithless generation, bring Him to Me. And He cast the spirit out with His word. And later on, twelve shame-faced apostles privately said, why couldn't we cast Him out? And Jesus said, because of your unbelief.

You didn't believe. I couldn't do it. Do you remember what the father of the child said to Christ? I brought Him to your disciples.

And they couldn't help Him. And then He said to Jesus, if thou can't do anything, that's an if-prayer, what did Christ say? If thou can't believe, He threw it right back in His face. He said, it's not up to me.

I've got the power. I've got the love. I want to do it.

I can do it. But I'm waiting for the response of your faith. If thou can't believe, all things are possible to him that believes.

And the father saw it. And it says straightway, the father of the child cried out with tears and said, Lord, I believe. Oh, God, help my unbelief.

Destroy it. God, deal with it. We need to pray that prayer, God, deal with my unbelief.

It's part of self. Unbelief rises from an uncrucified self always. We walk by faith, not by sight, 2 Corinthians 5 and 7. Ever notice a little record about Stephen in Acts chapter 6? It says, Stephen, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost.

In the same chapter later on, Stephen, full of faith and of power. First the faith, then the power. First the faith, then the Spirit of God.

Even in the Old Testament, we read words like this. If you will not believe, you will not be established. Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.

God's of power to establish you, make you strong. But you're going to have to deal with unbelief, and so am I. So we neglect the reading of the Word of God. Then we wonder why it is we don't have any power, we don't have any faith.

When Romans 10, 17 so clearly says, so then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. I never got any formal education, as already indicated tonight. I finished grade 11, more accurately I should say, grade 11 finished me.

When I got converted, when I was 22 years of age, I didn't even know there was such a thing as a Bible school or a seminary. All I knew was there was a gospel to preach and God was calling me to preach it. So in my stupidity and total ignorance, I said, God, I'll go ahead and do it.

And He began opening doors. I didn't know anything. And I would never advise anybody to go the route I went, but I'll tell you what God did for me.

Oh, by the way, this matter of degrees. Ever notice that in the Bible, the only place degrees are mentioned, well, it's mentioned in the Old Testament in relation to song, but in the New Testament, the deacons had degrees. They that have used the office of a deacon, well, purchased for themselves a good

degree.

I don't exactly know what kind of a degree that is, except it's a good one. I wasn't a deacon, so I didn't aspire after that. But here's what God did for me, and to Him be all the glory.

He gave me a tremendous hunger for the Word of God. And that first year after I became a Christian, dear people, He gave me such a hunger for the Bible, I read it six, eight, ten, twelve hours a day. I resented being called for meals.

Sometimes I was reading at two o'clock in the morning, and I'd waken early the next morning and back into it again. And I just went through the Bible like a jackrabbit being chased by a hare. Man, I had a great time with truth the second time, and I didn't realize then, I see it now, that God was building a foundation of biblical truth in my life, because I didn't even know there was a Bible school or a seminary.

And God chose to do it in a different way. Just a word, may I say it to you? I try and study carefully now even, ten chapters of the Word of God a day, and do my own across references. That'll take about two hours.

I find it a very healthy exercise. And last night, I said something about the kings of Israel, according to Deuteronomy. They're supposed to handwrite a copy of the Word of God.

May I pass this on? Do with it what you want. I started my own. You know, I've only got a couple.

I just got started a few weeks ago. I got the book of Romans finished. I mean, typing it on a typewriter.

Some people can use all ten fingers. I've read the Bible about four. But I got the book of Corinthians almost finished.

You know something? If you want to really fasten the Word of God in your heart, write it out. Write it out. It's a beautiful way of just fastening it in your mind.

I've never tried to memorize the Bible, really. I just read it a lot, and God fastens it in my heart, because we have that promise in John. Jesus Christ said, The Holy Spirit will bring to your remembrance whatever things I've said unto you.

Did you ever wonder how these men could write these Gospels? The only way they could do it was because the Spirit of God supernaturally reminded them of all the things Jesus Christ had done and all that He had said. Because, after all, they have to give an accurate account. We can depend on the Holy Spirit to trigger our own memory in these things, too.

For the glory of God. So if people neglect the reading of the Word of God, then they wonder why it is they don't have any faith. You can't... You know, some people think, Well, God will build... Maybe perhaps He'll drill a three-inch hole in my head, and pour this thing called faith in, and all of a sudden I'll have it.

Or maybe I'll make a trip to the prayer room, and all of a sudden I'll have it. Oh, listen. You may get the beginning of faith in the prayer room.

Oh, yes. You deal with self and deal with unbelief, and you have the beginning of a faith walk. But it'll grow only as you spend time with the Word of God and obey God.

The Word of God. Then if you haven't repented, you can never believe. You can't exercise faith.

And I think I said last night that repentance was a way of life. It wasn't a single act before God. Where do we get that? In Matthew chapter 21, Jesus Christ said to some of His opponents, He said, John the Baptist came unto you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him.

But the publicans and the harlots, they believed Him, and you, when you seen it afterward, did not repent that you might believe. You can't believe until you repent. That's what He said there in Matthew chapter 21.

But it's a way of life, and I find it put in such beautiful terms in Isaiah 55, Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. That's repentance. It's a way of life.

I take God's way. I forsake my own. I no longer allow myself to be guided by anything but the Word of God.

Repentance. No repentance. Then no real faith.

What else? No love, no faith. Faith works by love. Remember? Faith works by love.

No love, no faith. That just links what we're saying now, what we said this morning. And may I just take a moment here 1 Peter 1.22 Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that you love one another with a pure heart, fervently being born again.

Purify your souls in obeying the truth. That's Peter's way of saying what Paul said in 1 Timothy 1.5 Now the end of the commandment is love out of a pure heart. May I just say this? You can't have the kind of love God envisions and is talking about without a pure heart.

No wonder Jesus Christ said, Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. So in the Bible talks in James chapter 5 about what it calls a prayer of faith. That's linked to love.

The love of God in my soul. No confession. No faith.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. And if I know that in my life there is unconfessed, unforsaken sin, I just simply cannot exercise faith in God when I pray. Because I well know what God has said.

That if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. No restitution. When God is telling me to go to some person, make something right.

God is saying to me, I could go to my employer, make something right. And I refuse to do that. What does it say in the last chapter of Romans? Here's the phrase.

The obedience of faith. If I really believe, then I will obey. Maybe God is calling you to make restitution.

You're not willing to do that. In the crusade I had in Winnipeg a couple of years ago, a girl came for a concert. She worked in an office.

She said, I have a tremendous job, but I've been stealing money from the petty cash drawer and taking stuff home. And she said, well, the Lord's really been talking to me, and I know I should go and make it right, but I don't want to lose my job. She said another girl some while ago did the same thing, made

confession, and they fired her on the spot.

I don't want to lose my job. Well, I said, listen, if you lose that job, God will have another one for you. You don't have to worry about that.

When he puts forth his own seat, he goes before God goes in front. And I can say that to your encouragement tonight. If you have some difficult piece of restitution to do, to make, God will go before you.

God will prepare the way. God will take care of the consequences. I was back in Winnipeg about a year after that.

This girl showed up in one of the meetings, and she told me what happened. She said, I made confession to my boss. He fired me on the spot.

She said, I was so mad at you. She said, I got over that. And I really committed it to God.

She said, you know what happened? About a week later, the Lord got me a job that's twice as good as the one I had. She said, I just want to thank you for telling me what to do. Listen, he goes before, and he'll go before you.

No matter how serious it might look to you or how difficult. And remember something, the devil will magnify the problems. He loves to do it.

He knows how to do it. He'll fill your heart with all kinds of unbelief. But listen, faith always overcomes.

This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. And some of you have struggled so long with sin and self, you've come to the conclusion nothing can happen anymore. God can't really change me.

That's what unbelief would have you to think. That's the way the devil is operating. I think of a young man who was down in Minneapolis in the crusade some years ago.

Came Sunday morning along with his mother and his wife. Met God at the altar of the church. Later on, he came back.

They were living 250 miles out of Minneapolis. I'd known him. He was a Canadian, actually, living in the States.

And a couple of weeks later, pardon me, the following Thursday night, he came back alone. He said, Bill, I've been having some second thoughts. And I said, why? Oh, he said, when I opened up my heart to God at the altar Sunday morning, oh, he said, it opened a barrel of worms.

Not a bucket of worms, but a barrel of worms. He said, you know, I stole guns in Canada. God's been telling me I have to go and make it right.

My Christian employer taught me how to falsify my income tax to right it wrong. I treated the American government out of thousands of dollars in income tax. All my plans are falling apart.

What shall I do? Well, I told him, I said, I think you know what to do. He said, yes, I guess I do. And he did it.

He went through on it. Never had to go to jail. God took care of all the consequences.

But there was something he said that I want to share with you. He came forward Sunday morning, and after the counseling session was over, when he stood to his feet, he said to me, I don't feel one bit different, but I'm not taking back what I gave God down there. Do you know what he's doing now? He's pastoring a church in North Battlefield, Saskatchewan.

I don't know how many people he's led to the Lord in the year he's been there. It's been a beautiful work of God. My son-in-law, Dan, he and my daughter, Judy, they've been called there to work among youth.

And in the Sunday school, we thank God for what's happening. But it all began when he said, OK, God, I'll make restitution. I don't care what it costs.

I'll do it. Where you don't find the obedience of faith, faith, obedience. That's the way the word of God speaks.

How is it in your heart and life? Take heed, therefore, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God, but exhort one another daily. While it's called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. So you've got children that are straying.

You just can't believe God that God's going to do anything. Oh, listen, you're so right. You're so right.

They tempted God. They limited the Holy One of Israel. You put limits on God.

He'll abide by them. Oh, there's the odd exception to that. Don't count on it.

He could bear new and almighty works because of your unbelief. Faith, mighty faith that promises and looks to God alone, laughs at impossibilities and cries, it shall be done. Is that how your heart is? How long, God said, how long will it be ere they believe me? A simple thing like that.

God said, their spot is not the spot of my children. You're all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. That's the beginning of the Christian life.

They didn't have faith in God. They came to Kadesh Barnea. They said, no, God, we're not going in there.

And they didn't. Their bones bleached in the wilderness. A million and a half people, only two of them, Caleb and Joshua, were considered fit to enter the promised land, but through wicked unbelief, the bones of the others bleached in the wilderness as a lasting testimonial to what unbelief can do.

It's up to you. It's up to you. You can be what you want.

You can be all that God wants you to be if you're willing to believe him. But if you want to walk on in unbelief, you'll stay where you are. Indeed, you'll slide backwards.

Notice what it says in our text again. Take heed therefore, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from, sliding away from the living God. But exhort one another.

And that's what we do in the prayer room. We exhort one another. We do it here.

Lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. I knew a Christian mother. Her husband was a backslider.

She had five children. They were all straying from God. I just happened to be around the night the Lord moved in.

And I'll never forget that, as God swept that whole family. But afterwards, the mother said, and she was jumping up and down. She was a Mennonite.

They're not very demonstrative. But she was jumping up and down, clapping her hands like this. And she said, I've been praying for God to do a miracle.

And tonight is the night. Three of her sons became missionaries. One of them an outstanding missionary in Brazil.

In the area of Porto Alegre in Brazil. Because the mother believed God. Don't you listen to Satan.

He keeps filling our hearts with wicked unbelief. Oh, people, listen. This is the nature, the true nature of our problem.

Whatever the problem is in our life, I don't care. God can get me out of it. God can change things.

God's in control. God can change me. God can give you a ministry that's lasting and a blessing to people everywhere you go.

And God can give you victory in your home. God can give you victory over that sin that you've struggled with for years, if you believe Him. But you have to believe Him.

And to the glory of God, may I say this. I'm still glad when I started out, I didn't know much. Because it threw me on God.

I've never sat in a business meeting in my life. And here I was, pastor of a church. They sure didn't know how stupid I was.

They probably never called me. They never asked me, so I never told them. Do you know what they promised my wife and I? They promised us \$10 a month.

They said if the money comes in, it was a tale of the depression up in northern Saskatchewan. They said we'll pay you \$30 every three months if it comes in. We had a great time watching God answer prayer.

Oh, He taught us. We almost wore our knees out calling upon God. And in later years, when I was some years after that, I suppose maybe 10 years later, I was a missionary with the Chanteymen's Mission in Canada.

They were paying us \$85 a month if it came in at headquarters. When the average salary was about \$400 a month, we spent a lot of time on our knees again. Never, ever saw God fail.

I don't want to wear you tonight, and I don't want you to look at me, but I can say this. My years in the ministry and walking with God, He's never, ever failed. Never, ever failed.

Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. He cares for you. Do you believe it? If you believe it, then why don't you do something about it? Why don't you enter into a spirit-filled or spirit-controlled life and walk? Let God have His way in your heart.

We're going to sing that song again. 235. Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry.

Maybe you've gone to the prayer meeting, prayer room, nothing has happened. Why not go again and believe God? And no matter what you feel, believe God. We walk by faith, not by sight.

Believe God. And God will work. My fellow said to me one time, he said, I accepted it by faith Sunday morning.

And Wednesday morning, God made it real. See, God responded to the faith in his heart. And Paul said this.

It's a beautiful thought, and I don't want to start getting into that tonight. But he used this phrase, that God would count you worthy of His calling and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power. God will fulfill your work of faith with His power.

Believe it.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/18/SID18398.mp3>
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