

Unbelief

by Bill McLeod

Bill McLeod's sermon emphasizes the critical nature of faith and the detrimental effects of unbelief in the Christian walk.

Duration: 44:52

Scripture: Psalm 78:41, Matthew 28:17, Mark 1:15, Mark 6:5-6, Mark 16:14, Luke 24:25-27, John 20:27-29, Hebrews 4:2

Topics: "Unbelief"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of faith and belief in God. He criticizes the dangerous teaching that focuses on material wealth and encourages believers to trust in God's provision. The preacher shares examples of how God has provided for him and others in times of need, even using non-believers to bless them. He highlights the significance of believing in the gospel and having faith in God's ability to lead, bless, and use believers in their Christian work. The sermon references Bible verses such as Galatians 5:6, 1 John 4, Mark 6, and Hebrews 4 to support these teachings.

Transcript

...indicates that God's gonna sing to us. Did you know that? There is. Zephaniah chapter 3, 317.

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty. He will save. He will rejoice over thee with joy.

He will rest in his love. He will joy over thee with singing. And it'll be a trio, right? Listen, after God sings, after God sings, I don't know who'd want to sing.

After hearing God sing to his children, the picture I get is the redeemed of all the ages and held in the arms of God, and it's kind of God's lullaby. He's gonna sing to his children. Boy, you know something? Love is the language of heaven.

You better learn how to talk it before you get there. You know, it's just the language of heaven. For a text, I want to take Hebrews 3, 12 and 13.

It's one of the many take-heeds in the Bible. Take heed, brethren. He's addressing us as Christian believers.

Lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God, but exhort one another daily. This is the antidote. Exhort one another daily while it's called today.

Lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. So Christians may be filled, and sometimes are, with unbelief. I think it's probably the greatest problem we have in Christian work around the world.

There's just straight unbelief. Remember, there are 7,487 promises in the Bible. And promises are meant to be believed and trusted and stood upon.

We sing about it. Sometimes we don't really do it. Now, faith, hope and trust are words that are closely related.

And between the three of them, I think there's 468 references in the Bible altogether. Faith is basically a New Testament word. It occurs only twice in the Old Testament.

Trust is basically an Old Testament word. It occurs several times, a number of times in the New Testament. And hope is found in both Testaments.

Now, there's a little phrase, two words, that occurs 33 times in the New Testament. It's the phrase, the faith, the faith. In earlier times, a person might meet another person and say, Are you in the faith? Hey man, are you saved? Are you a Christian? Are you a believer? Are you in the faith? Why is, like the two words, the faith, refer really to the entire Christian theological thing and the whole Christian enterprise, the whole package? The faith.

Paul said he was now preaching the faith which once he destroyed. He didn't mean he was going around just preaching faith. He was preaching the faith.

Everything the Word of God had to say. And when Paul said that in the last days or later days, some would depart from the faith, he meant from the whole Christian revelation, the faith. And I think one of the reasons why this term is used is because faith is really at the core of everything on man's side.

For example, we all know we're saved by faith, right? Ephesians chapter 2. How many know we're kept by faith? In 1 Peter chapter 1. 2 Corinthians 1 says we stand by faith. 2 Corinthians 5 says we walk by faith. Hebrews 12, 1 and 2 says we run the Christian race by looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

1 John 5 says we overcome the world through faith. Ephesians chapter 6 says, above all, taking the shield of faith, we shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. So we overcome Satan by faith.

We draw near to God by faith in Hebrews chapter 10. Let's draw near with a true heart and full assurance of faith. We receive the righteousness of God by faith in Philippians 3. We receive the Holy Spirit by faith in Galatians chapter 3. We're sanctified by faith in Acts chapter 24.

And we live the Christian life, Galatians 2.20, the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God. The whole thing. There are 24 different things in the New Testament that happen to us Christians through faith.

It's at the core of everything. And this is why unbelief is our greatest problem. Now, Spurgeon said that unbelief was the bottom line of all sin.

And he based that in 1 John 5.10, which says, He that believes not God has made him a liar. Who would dare to call God a liar? None of us would. But every time we doubt God, we're calling Him a liar.

Ever notice how the four Gospels end the last chapter, or the last two chapters, Matthew last chapter, and they worship Him, but some doubted? Mark, he reproached Him with their unbelief and hardness of heart. Last chapter. Last chapter of Luke, O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He has found unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.

And the second last chapter of John, doubting Thomas. Thomas, be not faithless, but believing. Thomas, because you see, you believe.

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. So you see, faith is the core of everything. Unbelief is obviously our greatest problem.

In Psalm 78, 41, it says, They turned back, and they tempted God, and they limited the Holy One in Israel. That is, they limited what God could do. And God said to Moses, in Numbers chapter 14, How long will this people provoke Me? How long will it be that they believe Me, for all the signs which I have done among them? Unbelief.

And so, take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief. And you know, it's one sin we can hide. Nobody knows when we're committing this sin.

You know, if our people came to church every Sunday, believing that God was going to work, what would happen? Yeah, Wau was right. And if we preachers always preach believing that God is going to bless, what might happen? You know, George Mueller co-pastored Bethesda Chapel in Bristol, England, with a man called Henry Craik. And Mueller noticed that when Craik preached, people got saved.

When he preached, they didn't get saved. So he went to talk to Craik and said, Brother Craik, I see it this way. What do you think the problem is? And Craik said, Brother Mueller, when you preach, do you expect God will use you and save people? Well, he said, not really.

He said, I do. So Craik, or Mueller, began to believe God, and then he found that God was using him in the same way he was using Brother Craik. Billy Sonny said the average preacher, he spends all week preening the feathers of his shamanic peacock, and he stretched it out to Sonny for the admiration of the public.

Instead of really believing from our heart of hearts that God's going to speak through us, God's going to bless his people, he's going to refresh us, he's going to restore souls, that's the problem, unbelief. Psalm 78, 41, we gave you. Now, New Testament, Mark, chapter 6, it says about Jesus Christ.

In his hometown Nazareth, he could there do no mighty work because of their unbelief. So whether it's Old Testament or New Testament, the problem is the same. It's unbelief that stands in the way.

Our people are not believing God, and many times we are not believing God. And consequently, God is tied up. It's incredible, but it's true that we can actually tie God up and prevent him from working by our wicked unbelief.

It's frightening to think of, but it just happens to be the way that it is. Now, unbelief grieves God greatly because it denies his attributes of love and faithfulness and other things besides. And aggravated unbelief leads to agnosticism and atheism.

This grieves God greatly. Do you know that Moses, Moses was denied entrance to the Promised Land because of unbelief. Did you know that? Do you remember what happened? They needed water, so God said, I'll stand on the rock, you smite the rock with your rod, and water will come.

Well, whoever heard of hitting a rock with a wooden stick and expecting water to come for a million and a half people? I mean, it's crazy. But Moses believed, and it happened. Another occasion they needed water.

This time God said, Moses, speak to the rod. And Moses didn't believe that speaking to the rock would do it, so he smote it twice with his rod. And God says, because you did not believe me, you will never enter the Promised Land.

See, even Moses failed at that point through wicked unbelief. There's a story in Matthew 17, parallel accounts in Mark 9 and Luke 9 about a father with a demon-possessed child. You have to read all three accounts to get the whole story.

But basically it went like this. Jesus and three of his disciples were on the Mount of Transfiguration. The rest were down here.

The Pharisees were needling their disciples because they were trying to cast a demon out of a child and it didn't work. And Christ came on the scene. What's going on here? And the father of the child told Jesus, Well, my child's got a demon and I brought him to your disciples and they couldn't cast him out.

And here's a funny thing. In Luke 9, verse 1, Jesus had just given the apostles power to cast out demons. Now they try to do it and it doesn't work.

See, and it really embarrasses. So the father said to Jesus, If you can do anything, have mercy on us and help us. And Christ said, If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes.

So people, it went like this. He was saying, Jesus, Jesus, do something. Do something.

I'm sorry. I can't do anything unless you believe. All things are possible to him that believes.

And immediately the father of the child cried out with tears and said, Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief. And the unbelief was rising, but faith was in the ascendancy and the child was healed by the word of Christ.

Afterwards, the disciples, they talked to Jesus privately and said, Why couldn't we? Man, it was so easy. Why couldn't we? Eight of us. Nine of us.

Whatever. And Jesus said, Because of your unbelief. That's why.

They didn't believe the demon wouldn't go and they weren't disappointed. He didn't go. Because they didn't believe the power would be there.

In spite of the fact that Christ had given them this power. And also in Luke chapter 9, they were further embarrassed because they met a guy who wasn't even an apostle and he was casting demons out. So they forbade him.

Because it made them look so bad. Then in chapter 10, Jesus sent 70 men out. He did not give them power to cast out demons as some articles tell us.

He didn't give them that power. He just said, Heal the sick. Preach the kingdom.

And they returned with joy saying, Lord, even the demons are subject unto us through your name. And the 70 could do what the 12 couldn't. Because they had faith to believe.

What a lesson, you men, for us today. To believe, just to believe God. And so, it cripples God.

It prevents God from answering prayer. It robs the word of God of its power. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that what? That they believe.

In Mark 16, Jesus Christ said, The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe. Then in Hebrews 4, it says, The word preached did not profit them because it was not mixed with faith in them that heard it.

There was nothing wrong with the gospel it was preached. It was the attitude of the hearers. They didn't believe.

So it did nothing for them. I think of two brothers raised in the home. No favoritism by the parents.

One's in penitentiary on a seven-year stretch. The other fellow's a missionary in Indonesia, I think. I mean, what made the difference? One believed the gospel and one didn't believe.

And that applies to us as Christians in Christian work. Do we believe God's going to lead us? He'll lead us. Do we believe God's going to bless us? He'll bless us.

Do we believe God's going to use us? God will use us. If we don't believe, nothing happens. And then this goes on for a while.

We retreat into a shell. And we become almost impervious to any kind of appeal because we're saying it just doesn't work. Oh, yes, it does.

If I believe. All things are possible in the belief. In Ephesians chapter 1, Paul prayed a prayer.

There are three points to it. And the third one was that God's children would know the exceeding greatness of his power to us who believe. Then in chapter 3, he kind of put the icing on the cake unto him that's able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.

What does that say? People arise open to see the greatness of God's power to us who believe. When Jesus Christ raised Lazarus from the dead, you might not agree with this. I'll try and prove it.

He did it because Mary and Martha believed. What did he say to Martha? He said, Didn't I say to you that if you would believe, you would see the glory of God? What if she hadn't believed? What if she hadn't believed? In Hebrews chapter 11, the writer says, Through faith, women received their dead, raised to life again. I just have a feeling he was talking about Martha and Mary.

He may have been. We don't really know. But even there, it's faith just to believe God.

Nathan, the prophet, came to David and said, David, here's some things God wants to do for you. I listed them. There's ten of them.

So how did David handle it? Do you remember? He went into the temple and he sat down and here's what he said. He said more than this, but this is what he said basically. Lord, he said, do as you said.

Do as you said. You've given me these wonderful promises. Now, Lord, do as you said.

Let's see it. He believed. God said to Abraham, you're childless, you're a hundred years old, but your feet will be like the stars of the heaven and the sand by the seashore.

And what did Abraham do? Well, really what he said in the Hebrew, he amended God. He believed. He had nothing to base his faith on but the word of God, that's all.

Then God came to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, and told him the same thing. He was an old man. You're going to have a son.

You're going to have a son. His name will be John. And he says, well, you know, how, I mean, how in the world can this happen? Look at my age.

God says, you'll be dumb. You won't be able to speak until the child is born because you didn't believe. There it is.

I mean, all through the Bible you find this kind of thing. Blessed is she that believes, for there shall be a performance of those things. You believe, God performs.

The most high God who performs for me, Psalm 57, 2. There it is. I believe. I trust.

And sometimes, of course, God will tie our faith right down to the last wire. He loves to do that. God loves to do new things.

You know, Abraham had Isaac tied on the altar, everything ready to light the fire. He had the knife in his hand ready to plunge it into his son before the voice from heaven called. But it says in Hebrews 11 that Abraham had so much faith that he actually believed that if he killed Isaac, God would resurrect him from the dead.

That's how far his faith went. And also, sometimes it's so shaky and so snaky, you know. And we wonder why the Spirit of God is grieved by a wicked unbelief.

Unbelief and nothing else sends sinners to hell. He that believes not is condemned already because he does not believe in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

He that believes not shall be damned. There it is. Sinners think they have to commit, you know, murder or something in order to go to hell.

No, no. It's straight unbelief. He that believes on the Son has, present tense, everlasting life.

Thank God for that. But he that believes not shall be damned. Unbelief stands in the way.

It says of Stephen in Acts chapter 6 that he was full of the Holy Ghost. Then in the same chapter it says he was full of power. But in both cases it first says he was full of faith and the Holy Ghost.

He was full of faith and full of power. It just simply has to go together. Now the world says seeing is believing.

They said let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross who we may see and believe. Well, that's the way the world is. I'm from Missouri.

Show me, you know. Isn't that the old saying? Hope there's nobody here from Missouri. God says believing is seeing.

And he actually said that in Psalm 27. I have fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. And then in John chapter 11 said I not unto thee that if you would believe you would see the glory of God.

So believing is seeing. Believing is seeing. Many years ago I bought 140 acres of land up in the Canadian wilderness for a Bible camp.

Beautiful, beautiful campsite. Only about eight acres cleared. The rest was in forest and rock hills and everything.

And we had two rivers that came together there. Just a gorgeous place. And we had, oh, we had for years we had people there.

Many people stayed there. Wonderful time. And then one winter we had very little snow.

And in the spring no rain. And the forest was so dry. Every half hour on the radio programs no open fires in the forest.

No open fires in the forest. And one day there was a 50 mile an hour wind blowing. And some, what should I say, some fellow, he lit a fire.

He lit a fire and the wind blew it into the forest. That was nine miles south of our camp. And by the time it got down near Bird River where our camp was it was burning on a two mile front.

With a 50 mile an hour wind pushing it there goes the camp. I heard about it. I get down to pray.

My first thought was Lord, it's your letter burn. I mean, and then I thought well, wait a minute now. A lot of people have been saved down there.

Jesus hasn't come back yet. I know he can come back anytime. Maybe I should pray for God to save the camp.

So I did. And I remember I said Lord, I believe you with all your, I don't know how you're going to do it, but I know you're going to do it. And he did.

We never lost a tree. Not even a tree. You know what happened? I talked to a fellow.

They cleared everybody out of the area. But one fellow hid and they didn't find him. He stayed to try and save his house.

And he poured buckets of water on the roof and he managed to save his house. And I said, Hans, what happened? He said it was the strangest thing. He said that fire was just a roaring and suddenly the wind

stopped dead like that and turned around to the west and blew the fire to the east.

And then you read one of these books that says God doesn't do nature miracles anymore. Apparently God hasn't read their books. If you believe, you'll see.

If you don't believe, you'll not see. What's the core of the Jewish problem? It's unbelief, isn't it? Yes, it is. They made their hearts as an Adam and stone, lest you should hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts has sent in the spirit by the former prophets.

And then three things happened as we pointed out yesterday. And the first one was God refused to answer their prayers. I read an article one time written by a Jew who became an atheist because of what happened in Nazi Germany during the last war.

He said, Jewish people, relatives of mine, we prayed by the hour to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and he never answered. He said, I'm an atheist, there is no God. I read that and thought, oh God, if I could just have an hour with that man, I could show him from his own Bible.

Why? God didn't answer. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians chapter 2, they don't please God, they're contrary to all men, they forbid us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be safe to fill up their sins always for the wrath has come upon them to the uttermost. And that praise, dear people, is in point of time, to the end of time, the wrath of God is on this people because what they did to the prophets and finally their crowning sin, what they did to Jesus Christ, to standing with you, to sin everywhere and a warning to the rest of us.

You see, in Romans chapter 11, Paul said, they were broken off their own olive tree by unbelief. That was the problem. Unbelief.

That every reason to believe, no nation on earth was blessed the way they were. God said, you only have I known of all the nations of the earth, therefore, I will punish you for your iniquities. God expected more from them and He had a right to expect more from them because He poured out His Spirit on them in such a way.

Those miracles in Egypt, no nation ever saw miracles like that. Yet they weren't in the wilderness very long before they were doubting and complaining and murmuring and all the rest of it. The Bible says, do all things without murmuring and disputing that you may be blameless and harmless as sons of God without rebuke.

So sometimes we murmur and complain, why me Lord, why you, how come I lost my job? Hey God, how come my car got, you know, you're driving, a little while ago I was in a parking lot and I came out from between a couple of cars, I got rammed, the lady was driving, I don't blame her, I just never saw her coming, you know. So \$2,000 worth, why me God, you know. We have to learn to take things in our stride and praise God.

I will bless the Lord, oh my soul, or bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name. No matter what happens to your people, praise God. It's not bad, all things work together for what? For good, for them to love God.

Sometimes God rebukes us by what He allows to happen to us. He loves us so much, He will not let us go our own way. Let me say this from the Word of God, that if you're a Christian, or if you claim to be a Christian and you sin and get away with it, then you're not a believer.

Because you can't get by with anything as far as God is concerned. If you be without chastisement whereof all are partakers, then are you illegitimate children and not sons. Whom the Lord loves, He chastens and scourges every son whom He receives.

Hebrews chapter 12 makes it so clear. So we better line up with God. Don't complain when God spansks you.

Thank God that He's faithful. He loves you. That's why He spansks you.

That's why He spansks me. I've been spanked too. Many times.

By my faithful, faithful, loving God. So Israel's problem, then, is unbelief. And it's really frightening to think this has gone on now for 1,900 years.

Actually, longer than that because it went back centuries before the days of Christ. But I mean, from the time they said no to Christ, and I'm not overlooking the fact that thousands of Jews have found Christ. I understand that worldwide about 8,000 Jews are accepting Christ every year.

And they're mostly in the United States of America. Thank God for that. And let's pray that a greater work will be done among them.

But the problem's unbelief. Now, Romans 14, 17, 18, remember it says, The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved of men.

Then Romans 15, 13, it says, now that it's like a prayer of Paul's, if not a prayer of strong wish, that God of hope fill you with all joy and peace. And where are the next two words? In believing. You don't get it unless you believe.

In believing. And then Peter said the same thing in different words in 1 Peter 1, 8. Speaking about Christ 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. You know, David came back to Ziklag and in his absence another bunch of guys had come, a bunch of ruffians and they, they raped, they burnt the place and stole, took all the women and children and they were gone with the spoils of war and David's men were so upset they spoke of stoning David.

And you know what it says about David? It says, David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. There's an old, old translation. You know what it says? David chided David out of the dump.

It's an old English translation. He talked himself out of it. You can get under your problems, you're on top of your problems, it's up to you.

It's in your hand and power. You can say, oh man, man, I'm going to have a terrible day. Yeah, you'll have a terrible day.

Hey, this is a great day. I don't care what, I've got a few pains and aches, it's a great day just to say. You know, and it's so different, it's so different then.

God responds to faith. God hates unbelief. And so, let's look at something else for a moment or two.

Unbelief, we see how God looks at it. What causes it? There's a number of things. For example, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

If I neglect reading the Bible, studying it carefully, as it says in Psalm 1 and Joshua, meditating in it day and night, I'm not going to have much faith. If I neglect the means of faith that God has ordained for me, how can I expect to have faith? George Mueller, the famous man of faith and prayer, remember, he read the Bible through 200 times. He read it through 100 times on his knees, if you please, not because he was worshiping the book, but because he was kneeling before the God who spoke through the book.

200 times. And some Christians after really putting a lot into it and struggling real hard, they read the Bible through once in 25 years, you know, and think of something great. In his law, doc, he meditates day and night, but you're going to have to turn the boob-tube off, you know.

Spend hours watching that garbage. I remember a fellow saying to me one time, I said something in a meeting about, you know, if you watch that stuff, it'll pollute your mind, and he said, Brother Bill, that hasn't polluted my mind. He said, I watch all kinds of programs, doesn't pollute me at all.

I said, then one of two things is true. Either you're a liar or you're not a normal man. And you know what happened? He bowed his head and said, okay, you're right.

I said, I know, I said, because I've seen something on TV and I'm down praying on my knees and all of a sudden my mind, while I'm praying or while I'm reading the Bible, my mind is flooded with some filthy thing I saw. We're very vulnerable. It's like throwing gasoline on a fire to watch that kind of junk.

So, all right. A wicked heart, an evil heart. We notice in the Scriptures in Hebrews 3, 12 and 13, lest any of you be hardened to the deceitfulness of sin, unconfessed sin.

James 1, 8, James 4, 8. James 1, 8 says that a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. But James 4, 8 says that double-mindedness is the result of unconfessed sin. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

So, I'm double-minded. I'm up and down when it comes to faith and unbelief because of unconfessed sin. Nothing shoots us down quicker, dear people, than sin that we know about.

There may be some sin I'm not even aware of. God will show that to me if I pray to this end. But when I sin, I know I've got sin.

I haven't dealt with it, or maybe I've confessed it, but I haven't made things right with some people that are concerned. And every time I try to believe God, I find I can't. It's just not there.

I can't do it. But when everything is right and the canals are clear, man, you can believe God for anything. It's so different then.

Our heart is singing day and night because of the goodness and the greatness of God. You know, I sometimes say to myself, you know, God is so great. He fills the universe.

The Bible says He's still stretching out the heavens like a tent to dwell in, that the universe will never be big enough for God because He's infinite in size and everything. So He keeps stretching the heavens out like a tent to dwell in. You think of billions of light years you're thinking of God and His greatness and power, and then some little problem comes along, and we're full of unbelief.

God can't do anything. God can't help me. And people get into this syndrome, you know, poor little me, I'm just a little guy, I haven't made any mark in the world, and when I die, nobody will ever miss me, and God can't use me, I'm just so small, dear God, I know you can't use me, and that's how people talk, and they call it humility.

Do you know what it is? It's pride of the worst kind. That's what it is. God can use anybody whose heart is right, who believes Him, who walks with Him.

I was telling some of the brethren the other day about two brothers, they're 20 and 21, they've moved from Elfrid, Saskatchewan, to Winnipeg, they're in our church now, and they're going after street kids. They had 40 at the last meeting. Kids are being saved right and left, and they drag them out to the church on Sunday.

It's just beautiful. And these kids will believe God for absolutely anything. I've never seen faith like it really.

It's just so contagious. But then you get some Christians who have been Christians for 40 years, and man, you know, it's like a 40 mile an hour wind from the northwest and 40 below zero to get close to some Christians. So, unbelief, our greatest problem.

Now, how do we deal with it? Well, to begin with, dear people, let's call it what God calls it. I hear people say, I've prayed many times for God to give me more faith, and He doesn't give me any more faith, so I guess He doesn't want me to have any more than I've got. Ever heard that? Ever thought that? Well, this is the way some people feel.

They don't think unbelief is sin, and that's a major problem in our churches today. Nobody thinks that unbelief is sin. They think it's unfortunate.

That's as far as I'm going kind. It's the bottom line, of all sins. We've got to call it what God calls it.

And it's not what you can't believe, it's who you can't believe. And that puts a totally different face on the whole problem. I was in meetings with Sault Ste.

Marie, Canada one time, and a lady came for counseling. Well, she heard me preach on the prayer of faith in James 5, and I pointed out there's no such thing as the prayer of unbelief. There is the prayer of faith that God responds to.

Well, anyway, she thought about this. She went home. She had several problems.

One, her husband, he had stomach problems. He couldn't eat anything but milk and soup. Then she was having these migraine headaches.

She used to get them once a month. Then she got them once a week. Now she's getting them once a day or often.

And they were just killing her. And she had a mental block. I don't know what it is.

So the mother got pondering on this prayer of faith thing and finally she decided she was going to go whole hard. She was going to believe God for all three problems. She talked over with the pastor and he threw cold water and said, now, wait a minute, sister, you know, supposing God doesn't do it when you pray the prayer of faith and you're going to really fall flat in your face in the mud.

And so she listened to that counsel for a bit but it kept coming back to prayer of faith. So one day she got along with God and she said, dear God, I'm going to trust you for all three problems. And she started to pray the Lord.

I was back there 18 months later and this lady came to talk to me. She said, you know what happened? God did. My husband, she said, my husband, he can eat cactus or barbed wire.

And she said, I've only had one migraine headache in the last 18 months and that came when I started to doubt God. I'm not saying that migraine headaches are the result of unbelief but in her case it was. And then she said, my daughter, do you know what happened? I prayed the prayer of faith.

The next day she came to me and said, mom, guess what I just did? I just asked Jesus to come into my heart. And she went to school and suddenly got up in the classroom and faced the teacher. And she just she guess what? I just asked Jesus to come into my heart.

she said, mom, guess what? to come into my heart. And she guess what? to come into my heart. And she mom, I just asked to come into my And she said, mom, guess what? I just asked to come heart.

And she said, guess what? I just Jesus into heart. And she And if I'm really filled with the love of God, then I will not be praying selfishly. You know how people, they pray they'll win the sweet state, or one of these, what do they do now, these illegal things they call them, lottery.

And somebody wins \$11 million, and you hear Christians pray, not often but sometimes, Dear God, if you let me win \$3 million, I'll give you, I'll give, I'll give you, I'll give you \$50,000. It's a bargain, you know. And God's really hard up, so God needs that \$50,000.

No, Jacob did that. He said, Jacob said, If you will do this and this, and bring me safe to my father's home in peace, I'll give you the tithe. Big deal.

Tell me, what would God want with a bunch of flea-bitten camels and sheep? You know. People, we don't have anything to bargain with. We have to come as empty-handed, empty-headed, empty-hearted to the God who fills the heavens and the earth.

He'll fill us, too, if we'll allow Him. But the challenge of faith, dear people, oh, what God can do. I remember one time when I was with the Shanty Commission, the bush camps, I used to run children's camps in the summertime.

They were tent camps, simple camps. We never had much equipment, but we saw a lot of kids saved. And I was to meet with a committee in Winnipeg before I stuck out for these five camps that summer.

I had a panel truck and all the camp equipment loaded in the truck. And I didn't have five dollars in my wallet. And I didn't want to tell the committee that.

I never, ever shared my needs. But I said, God, I'll not tell them what the problem is, but if they ask me, I'll tell them. So we left it that way.

Nobody asked. And they put their hand on my head. Brother Bill, the Lord bless you.

Have a great summer, you know. Have a great summer. And I'm hoping that last guy at least will have more than a pat on the head, but he didn't.

And so away we went. We ended the summer in the black with money in the bank, you know. Because we just believed God.

I was running a camp one time at Atatomic Lake near the Palm, Manitoba. We had 40 kids. We ran out of money the third last day of camp.

We had no food left. And so I called a few leaders we had together and our resources between us. I think we had ten dollars or something.

And so we had nothing. The committee had sent me a check in the mail, which never came. And the promise of God, it never came because he wanted to show us what he could do apart from a check in the mail.

So we had a prayer meeting that night next morning right after breakfast. I don't remember if we had breakfast or not now. I know we had practically nothing in the camp.

A truck rolled up to camp and a fellow said, Is this McLeod's camp? Well, I said, Yeah, my name is McLeod. Why? He said, A fellow came into our store and bought all these groceries and said, Take them up to your camp. I mean, there's more groceries than we needed for the rest of the days or three days.

There was even ice cream and watermelon, you know. And you know who did it? A wicked sinner. You know what happened, I think? I think God knocked on some Christians' hearts and they weren't willing to do it, so God got a sinner to do it.

Because remember, when Elijah was in the wilderness, who fed him? The ravens. And they were an unclean bird. And sometimes God will use an unclean bird to do a thing like this.

But God will never forsake us, never forget us. I'll tell you, some of the most exciting things ever happened in my experience, was things of this kind, when you were right down to rock bottom and you had nothing. You know, my son, I just have one son, I have four daughters, well, five daughters, one in heaven.

And my son, we were riding one day, he's a little weak guy, two years or whatever, and suddenly I said to my wife, Honey, look at Tim. She looked at him, he was out like a light. We talked and he never heard us.

We finally took him to a doctor, he was taking these seizures, he was in epilepsy. And well, we wondered about this, we talked to God about it, and nothing happened. And I was sort of trying to hide it, you know, epilepsy.

And then God spoke to me about my pride. So Wednesday night, I shared it with the church. And the church prayed for him, he's never had a spell since.

Not a spell since, he's 40 years old now. Sometimes our pride gets in the way of God doing things and answering our prayers. Well, people, I stop and I say to myself, 7,487 promises and I'm fretting? The foolishness of man perverts his way and his heart frets against the Lord.

And God hates fret-words of that kind. He wants us to believe. Why can't we believe? And then, remember, there's something else here, another thought before I conclude.

Jesus said to some of his contemporaries, John the Baptist came unto you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him. But the publicans and the harlots believed him. And you, when you'd seen it

afterward, did not repent that you might believe.

If you don't repent, you can't believe. And that's a major problem. Dale Faison felt he's gone now to be with the Lord.

Some of you know who he was. Head of Life Action Ministries for years. He gets into all kinds of churches, some very large churches.

He said he's been really distressed sometimes getting to a church, maybe several thousand members, and then the head pastor will say, now, Brother Dale, never mind this repentance stuff, just tell him to come to Jesus. Really? What did Christ say? Repent and believe the gospel. People say, well, repentance and faith, it's the same thing.

No, it isn't. In Acts chapter 20, Paul said he went everywhere preaching two things, repentance towards God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, in that order. And you, when you'd seen it afterward, did not repent that you might believe.

So, dear people, it's a problem of an evil heart of unbelief, and we must confess it as being evil, and as God's forgiveness, and get in the mainstream of the will of God in our church and our work, whether we're a Christian worker or not. All of us are Christian workers in one sense, or should be, but to believe that God will use you, and God will use you. You know, that Bible camp I mentioned, the fellow was selling all his property with a house on it and some other stuff for \$2,000.

Now, remember, this was 45 years ago, see. And anyway, all I had was \$6 on me, and I made the deal for \$2,000. And within one month, God sent in enough money to pay it all off and have some in the bag, pay the lawyers' fee too.

But I find when I don't believe, I don't get anything, everything gets jammed up and fouled up, and God's Word grinds to a halt. So I have to...

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/4/SID4384.mp3>
Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/bill-mcleod/unbelief/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net