

Walls #4: Tearing Down Walls of Unbelief

In the previous lessons, we looked at how to rebuild protective walls around the church and us individually, with observations from the book of Nehemiah. We also looked at the need to tear down walls of ignorance, superstition, and false teaching.

4. Walls of unbelief

Unbelief is a wall that will prevent us from receiving answers to prayer, or even of truly knowing God, and walking in his blessings and provisions. We must cast down the walls of unbelief in our hearts, and build walls of faith and trust in God.

What do we mean by unbelief? There are different kinds of unbelief:

1. Not to believe in God at all (atheists, agnostics, and your general, run-of-the-mill heathen)
2. Backsliding and apostasy (“departing from the living God”)
3. Not believing specifics in the Word, like the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the second coming, etc.
4. Not believing that God will really act, answer prayer, do miracles, etc.

So even we as believers in Christ may have areas of unbelief in our lives.

Example 1: Mk. 9:17-29 (The man with the demon-possessed son) Jesus said, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” The man responded “Lord, I believe: help thou mine unbelief”.

Example 2: Peter walking on water, and the other disciples who didn’t even get out of the boat.

Example 3: Thomas, who would not believe in the resurrection at first.

We sing the hymn “Standing on the Promises”, but are we really? Which ones? All, or just some?

Unbelief keeps us from God’s blessings. Mk. 6:5-6 – “And he could do there no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief...” Are we like that? Is it easy to believe against a cold or sore throat, but not a cancer? Are we really believing God for a healing, or just relying on it getting better soon “by itself”?

We don’t need a lot of faith (a little is enough), but to get rid of doubt and unbelief. Mt. 17:19-20 – “... Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” Some physical and spiritual needs are more difficult. Some demons are stronger than others, and at times fight harder than others. But Jesus is always the answer. We must persist in faith.

Unbelief is called evil, and is a separation from God. It will keep us from entering the place of rest. Heb. 3:12-14, 18:4-2 – “Take heed, 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 To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. ... And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believe not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

The book of Hebrews is warning Christians not to forsake their faith and go back into unbelief, not to “depart from the living God”. e.g., 2:1-3, 3:6 – 4:2, 6:4-9, 10:23-39, 12:1-4 Some go back by persecution and threats, some by weariness, some by love of the world, some by apathy, some by self-condemnation.

But what kind of unbelief was it that doomed the Israelites in the wilderness? It doesn’t mean they did not believe that God existed, but they did not believe that he was for them, that he would act on their behalf.

Heb. 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

They ignored their Abrahamic heritage and promises, the miracles in Egypt, and mighty deliverance through the Red Sea, and

- a. Thought God brought them out to destroy them (they doubted God's integrity)
- b. Thought that they would die for lack of food and water (they doubted God's providence and omnipotence)
- c. Did not believe that God would give them victory over the giants that inhabited the land (they doubted God's enabling, or his willingness to fight for them)

Their response was

- a. **Murmuring, accusations, and threats against Moses and Aaron.** If we don't want to obey God, the tendency is to blame our leaders.
- b. **Following after false leaders** (Korah, Dathan, Abiram). If we don't want to obey God, we seek out false leaders, like pastors that will tell us what we want to hear (ear-ticklers), or spell-binding cult leaders.
- c. **Setting up idols** (the golden calf incident). Then we go so low as to set up man-made idols, of false teaching, or denominational establishments, or materialism. "Fig-leaf religion"

Note: All these can also be seen in a political and sociological sense, in victim-mentality, "wokeness", and the false prophets of news media, Hollywood, comedy, Big Education, progressivism, etc.

Ps. 78 is filled with examples of the Israelites' unbelief, and how they forgot all God's marvellous works.

78:5-8 – God commanded them to make known his acts to their children, "That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God."

78:11-20 – After all his miraculous deliverance and provisions, "they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness. And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?"

Ps. 78:22 – "Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation."

Ps. 78:32 – Even after he fed them manna and quail, "For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works." And v. 41 – "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel."

We should not be satisfied with just "being Christians". We should be believing for a mighty end-time efficacy of the Word in teaching and preaching, and that that word would be confirmed with signs following (Mk. 16:15-20, Ac. 4:29-30). Where are the "greater works" Jesus promised? Judges 6:13 – "...where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of ...?"

Heb. 4:11 – "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest. lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

Let us examine our own hearts, and start tearing down every wall of unbelief.