

Conquering Unbelief

Believe for the Unbelievable

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

Romans 8:37 NIV

Tell Story of my Grandfather from 1959 (66 years ago)

The Bible is full of unbelievable stories:

1. The Parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14)
2. Jericho walls fall with marching, trumpets, and a shout. (Joshua 6)
3. Dry Bones Come to Life (Ezekiel 37)
4. Peter Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-23)
5. Lazarus is Raised from the dead John 11
6. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego thrown into a fire and didn't get burned Daniel 3)

The Bible is full of unbelievable stories. God wants to unbelievable at LifeChurch.

Set up the text scripture: A Desperate Father: A father brings his son, who suffers from severe seizures due to a demon, to Jesus after His disciples failed to heal the boy.

Jesus said “bring the boy to me.”

Mark 9:22-24 NIV “But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” “If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

A father stands in front of Jesus with his child in crisis. He’s already tried everything. He’s exhausted. He’s desperate. And when Jesus invites him to believe, he answers with the raw honesty; “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief”

In other words:

“God I trust You, but my anxiety is louder than my faith right now.

“God, I believe You can, but I’ve been disappointed before.”

“God, I want to believe fully, but fear keeps interrupting.”

And here’s the good news: Jesus doesn’t wait for his fear to disappear before He acts. He doesn’t tell him to calm down, try harder or come back when his faith is stronger.

Jesus meets him in the middle of belief and unbelief.

The prayer that some of us need to prayer today isn’t “Lord, I have it all together,” but, “Lord, I believe... please help the parts of me that are still afraid”?

How do we Conquer the Unbelief in our lives?

1. Confess the Unbelief

Mark 9:24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief."

The father didn't hide his doubt—he confessed it.
Unbelief loses power when it's exposed in the presence of Christ.

- God is not intimidated by honest faith struggles.
- You cannot conquer what you conceal.
- Don't suppress it. Confess it.
- Faith grows when honest confession meets Jesus.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (God is speaking to Paul) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast (confess) all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Paul doesn't hide his weakness here. He actually boasts about it. Why? So that Christ's power can be shown and revealed IN his weakness.

Psalm 34:4 "I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears."

In this Scripture, David didn't deny fear, he sought God in his fear.

Faith isn't the absence of fear. It's bringing our fears to God. Confessing them. So that He can help us overcome them.

Big Line: Unbelief concealed is strengthened, but unbelief confessed is conquered.

Application: Name the unbelief and make room for God to move on your behalf.

2. Consume the Truth of God's Word

Romans 10:17 NKJV "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

- Unbelief grows when truth is absent.
- Faith grows in exposure to truth of God's Word.
- You can't starve your spirit and expect strong faith.

Jesus defeated doubt and temptation with "It is written."

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

When your feelings say one thing, anchor to what God has said.

Application: What you repeatedly hear will shape what you eventually believe.

Big Line: You can't feed on fear and expect faith to grow.

Application: Replace the voice of fear with the voice of Scripture.

3. Call to Mind What God Has Already Done

Remember the things God has done before.

After God parted the Jordan for the Israelites to walk on dry land, the Lord instructed Joshua to tell twelve men representing the tribes to collect one stone each (12 stones in all) so they would remember the miracle God had done.

Joshua 4:1-7 NIV

When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight." So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the

Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

Set up Some memory stones as visual

1. **Provision**
2. **Healing**
3. **Restoration**
4. **Protection**
5. **Open Door**
6. **Peace**
7. **Deliverance**
8. **Strength**
9. **Faithfulness**
10. **Breakthrough**
11. **Victorious**
12. **Sustained**

Psalm 77:1–12

I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands, and I would not be comforted. I remembered you, God, and I groaned; I meditated, and my spirit grew faint. You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak. I thought about the former days, the years of long ago; I remembered my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked: “Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?” Then I thought, “To this I will appeal: the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand. I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.

The psalmist, Asaph, fought discouragement by rehearsing God’s past faithfulness.

Asaph models exactly what we are talking about today as he calls to mind what God has done.

He moves from: Has God forgotten me? To “I will remember”

Application:

- Keep a testimony list.
- Rehearse victories.
- Journal God's Faithfulness

Song: Always On Time

4. Commit to Obedience

James 2:17 NIV Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

- Action activates belief.
- Obedience builds confidence in God.

Summary of Naaman (2 Kings 5)

Naaman was a powerful commander in the Syrian army.

He was respected. Honored. Successful.

But he had leprosy.

A young Israelite servant girl told Naaman's wife about the prophet Elisha. Naaman went to Israel expecting a dramatic miracle.

Instead, Elisha didn't even come out to see him. He sent a message:

"Go wash in the Jordan River seven times, and you will be clean."

2 things I want to bring up here: 1. The Jordan was muddy, and nasty, 2. Leprosy caused people to have big sores on their bodies.

Naaman was offended.

- The instruction felt too simple.
- The river seemed too dirty.
- The process didn't match his expectations.

In anger, he started to leave.

But his servants said,

"If the prophet had told you to do something great, wouldn't you have done it? Why not do this simple thing?"

Naaman humbled himself.

He dipped in the Jordan once... twice... three times... all the way to seven.

And on the seventh dip, his flesh was restored like that of a child.

His healing came on the other side of obedience.

Tie-In

Obedience is often simple — but it is rarely comfortable.

Naaman didn't struggle with belief that God could heal him.

He struggled with obeying the **way** God chose to heal him.

And that's where we live.

We want:

- Big miracles
- Dramatic encounters
- Impressive instructions

But God often give us something simple like:

- Forgive them.
- Apologize first.
- Stay planted.
- Tithe consistently.
- Serve quietly.
- Pray again.
- Dip again

The miracle wasn't just in the Jordan River.

The miracle was also in the obedience.

Naaman's healing was not activated by position, status, or emotion.

It was activated by his obedience.

- Your breakthrough may be waiting on your seventh dip.
- Don't let pride block what obedience can unlock.

- Partial obedience won't produce full healing.
- The instruction you're offended by may be the answer you prayed for.

Big Line: Step out—even while you're still sorting it out.

Application: What's God telling you to do? Do the last thing God told you to do.

Song: Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way;
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

Corporate Declaration: "Unbelief Will Not Win"

Father God,

Today I bring You my whole heart.

I believe —
and I surrender my unbelief.

Where doubt has tried to settle,
faith will rise.

Where fear has whispered lies,
truth will speak louder.

I will not be ruled by what I see.
I will not be moved by what I feel.
I will stand on what You said.

God, Your promises are yes and amen.
Your Word is final.

Your power is greater than my problem.

Disappointment will not define me.
Delay will not discourage me.
Silence will not shake me.

I choose faith over fear.
I choose trust over doubt.
I choose obedience over hesitation.

Unbelief will not win in my mind.
Unbelief will not live in my heart.
Unbelief will not shape my future.

I am anchored in truth.
I am strengthened by the Spirit.
I am confident in Christ.

Today I believe again.
Today I trust again.
Today I hope again.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

ENDING LINE

Unbelief confessed is unbelief weakened.
Truth consumed is faith strengthened.
Remember God's faithfulness in the past and unbelief is conquered.
Obedience chosen is breakthrough activated.