

# DEWITT TABERNACLE TEACHING SERIES

## “TRYING TO BELIEVE GOD”

BY C.W. WOOD

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**A NOTE TO OUR READERS:** *Dear Friends, Five years ago, who would have thought that Something in the world would happen to Shut the business of the whole world down? But it did happen! I will quote a minister in Africa who is a friend of mine. Quote “God wound it all up in Rev. 13:11 where He prophesied the rise and fall of the greatest nation on Earth. America was founded and established to make a nation free from the rule of the Papacy. However as the United States developed, immorality and worldliness crept in and today She is approaching a tragic End. Br. Branham once said, America would, in the Endtime, be ruled over by a Pharaoh who did not know Joseph. The Protestant doctrines, as we once saw in the U.S. Constitution have been and are being attacked by the enemy!” Unquote (Very soon the Bride must leave to make way for the antichrist to fulfill his Part in the Scripture. We love our Bride Family and many thanks for your help.) See you at the Marriage Supper.*

*Br. Wood and Church*

Today we want to discuss a problem that we all have had. When I say we have all had it, I am referring to those People who have received the Holy Ghost. We have tried and tried to believe God, not knowing that the Lord has already given us Power to believe Him, and that as long as we continue to try, that is Proof that we have not yet claimed the Kind of Believing that God requires.

I love the teaching of Br. Charles Spurgeon. He was a Baptist minister in England and was mightily used of God to teach the Scriptures from 1855 until his death in 1892. After a lengthy study of his teaching, I found that he and Br. Branham preached many of the Same revelations and

that he had a very unusual gift of explaining the Word.

It is true that it was not yet the time for God to reveal some of the things that our Prophet was given. But Br. Spurgeon was Perhaps the greatest, or one of the greatest Soul Winners of that era!

I know that there are those in our churches who do not want to read or Study anything except it come from Br. Branham, and I agree that our revelations should be checked with his “Thus Sayeth the Lord” teaching. Of course we know that all men’s teaching must agree with God’s King James Bible!

Because I know that many of our Message Believers do not have Br. Spurgeon’s books, I want to use this

Sermon space to reprint one of his very important Sermons on what our Power to Believe God is. It has helped me much and I know it will help Some others who are still T r y i n g to believe. I will Say this before I quote Part of Br. Spurgeon’s sermon. The Promises of God are not for us as long as we are trying to believe what He said. All the promises are for those who are through trying to believe and have now claimed that they are Believers. Unless we believe that we are Believers we are not yet able to Claim the Promises as we should.

Quote: Paperback Book named “Assurance.” 11. After hearing came BELIEF.

We know that believing does not always follow

hearing immediately. There is a case told of Mr. Flavel having preached a sermon which was blessed to a man, I think eight-five years afterwards, so that the seed may lay long buried in the dust; yet, had not that man heard that sermon, speaking after the manner of men; he had not received the quickening Word. You may have heard the Gospel long in vain, and it should be to you a source of very serious enquiry if you have done so—it should set you to trembling lest the Word should never be the savour of life of life unto you, but at the same time do not renounce the hearing because hitherto you have no blessing, for faith cometh by hearing. Continue still to listen; continue still to search the Word; and, if your soul desireth faith, God denies not faith to any in whom he has really implanted a desire after it. Faith will yet, we trust, come while you are hearing.

A message comes to me upon good authority—I believe it; believing it, I necessarily trust it. My receiving of the message is so far good, but the essential act, the act essential to salvation is the trusting—the trusting Christ. The process of faith may be thus illustrated. You know a friend of yours to be perfectly reliable—you are in debt. He tells you that if you

will trust him to pay the debt, he will give you on the spot a receipt for it.

Now, you look at him, you consider his ability to pay it; you consider the probability that he means what he is saying. Having once made up your mind that he is truthful, you could not then say, “I cannot believe you.” If you once know that person to be truthful, I utterly deny that you can hold any argument about your power to believe him.

So, if Jesus Christ declares that He “came into the world to save sinners” and, if He tells me, as He does tell me, that “Whosoever believeth” in Him shall not perish, but shall have eternal life”—if I am already enabled by God’s Spirit to believe in the perfect truthfulness of Christ, I should be lying unto my own soul if I said I have not power to believe in Him. Understand, power to believe in Christ is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

But the Holy Spirit has given that power to all men who know the perfect truthfulness of Christ. It must be so, if you just look at it for a moment—it must be so. If I know the perfect truthfulness of a man, I lie if I say to him, “I cannot believe you.” Why it follows, as a matter of course, that I must believe if I am convinced that he is worthy of credit.

Just so, when I am assured of Christ that his testimony is worthy of my belief, I have no right then to plead that I cannot believe Him. Mark, I am only speaking to those who have got as far as that, and there are hundreds of you who have; when you tell me you cannot believe, I reply, “My dear friend, you can believe. In the Holy Spirit’s giving you enough enlightenment to know that Christ is faithful and true, that enlightenment is your power to believe.” And this is according to the rules of common sense as well as according to the rules of experience. Do not stand, therefore, and say, “I cannot believe what Christ says.” Do you believe Him to be true? “Yes,” say you, “I dare not say otherwise.” Then you can believe what He says.

But do you believe that Christ is true? I fear you do not. I believe that John discovered the secret of your unbelief when he said, “He that believeth not hath made God a liar, because he hath not believed on His Son.” That is the bottom of it. You really do think God to be a liar! Do you shrink from that charge? Ah! But I must bring it against you again, for if you know God to be true, I insist upon it, and your own reason tells you it is so, that you cannot help believing in a

person you know to be true. I fear me, that you are making God a liar; and if you deny that charge, then I arrest you at the other point at once, and demand of you that you do now exercise faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is trusting Christ that saves the soul.

Now a few remarks about believing. *Faith in Christ is the work of God's Holy Spirit.* In proof of this we have many Scriptures. No man ever did yet believe in Christ until the Holy Spirit had quickened him and illuminated his understanding, so that he perceived the truthfulness of Christ's character and was then led to trust Him. But in the next place, although faith is the work of the Spirit *it is the act of man.* The Holy Spirit does not believe for me: there is nothing for Him to believe. Repentance is the work of the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit does not repent: He has nothing to repent of. He works in me to will and to do, but I will and I do: He does not will nor do what I ought to will and do.

If I have a person here who is ignorant and I teach him, when he acquires knowledge, that is my gift to him and my work in him: at the same time *he* acquires that knowledge himself, and it would never have been his if he had not yielded up his faculties to be

taught. Man *believes*; and whenever persons say to you, "Well, if it be the work of the Holy Spirit, how can it be the duty of man?" remind them that while it is the work of the Holy Spirit, it is not the *act* of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not believe, it is the man who believes. The Spirit moves upon us, and by his mysterious agency takes away the natural unbelief of the soul and then we believe; but man is not passive in the act of believing. A dead man does not believe, the man is quickened, and then his quickened spirit lays hold of revealed truth.

Observe this further, that *faith is due to Christ.* The faithful and true witness demands of me that I should believe what he says. Sinner this is the unkindest cut thou canst give to Christ—to doubt Him. I tell thee that all His sufferings on the tree did not insult Him so much as when thou sayest, "I cannot trust Thee." What, not trust the eternal arm on which the earth doth hang! Not trust the bleeding hands which have opened the gates of Heaven for the very chief of sinners! Not trust the streaming side out of which there gushes blood and water to cleanse the guilt and the power of sin! Not trust God's own Son, the Mighty God, the Redeemer of Men! It is due to Him that

thou shouldst with thy whole heart lean upon Him and give Him all thy confidence.

*This faith is essential to salvation. Assurance is not essential, but no man can be saved unless he trusteth in the Lord Jesus Christ. You may get to Heaven with a thousand doubts and fears; you may get to Heaven without some of those graces of the Spirit which are the ornaments of the believer's neck, but you cannot get there without the life-giving grace of faith. You must have that, and so long as you continue to say, "I will not trust Christ; I want dreams, visions, experiences, revelations; I want terrors of conviction; I want this, I want the other;" so long you shut yourself out of peace. Till you set your seal to God's Word, God will never set His seal to your faith.*

Remark, again, this *faith is not required in any particular degree.* In order to salvation, it is not declared in Scripture that you are to believe to a certain strength, but if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed—if that be a mountain-moving faith, Faith is not to be estimated by its quantity but by its quality. If thou hast no more faith than a smoking flax hath of fire, yet He will not quench thee: if thou be not a man, but an infant in grace—nay, if you be scarcely a healthy infant, if

there be but faith in thee, though thou be cast out as unswaddled and unwashed, yet He passeth by and looketh upon thee.

Canst thou but trust Him? That is the thing. If thou dost but trust Him as a drowning man clutches a rope; if thou lookest to Jesus, as it were,

out of the corner of thine eye, though there are so many tears in thine eye that thou canst not see Him so completely as thou dost desire—though thou not see Him at all to thy comfort, yet thou seest Him to salvation. If you have received Him, desire great faith, but remember that little

faith will carry thee to Heaven through Jesus Christ. End Quote.

This is a Powerful, common sense teaching on Faith and our Earnest Prayer is that the Holy Ghost will reveal it to us all. Amen

Br. Wood