

We have been taught by the Word of God and by our Prophet, that UNBELIEF is the foundation upon which all wrong acts stand. Actions that we call sin are caused by our failure to fully believe the Word of God.

QUOTE: C.O.D. BOOK, PAGE 1027, "What is sin? (It's) Unbelief! There is only one sin, only one sin. How many knows that? (It's) Unbelief. Committing adultery is not a sin. Smoking cigarettes, telling lies, swearing, that's not sin. (Of itself) That's the attributes of unbelief. You do it because you are not a believer. That's right! So, there is only one sin and that's unbelief. He that believeth not is condemned already. No matter what, (No matter what else he does good.) he is condemned to start with." (End quote)

John 3:18, "**He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed in THE NAME of the only begotten Son of God.**"

When we prayerfully analyze the above scripture, we begin to understand that unbelief hinges around our failure to believe in the POWER that is in the "NAME OF THE LORD JESUS." Belief in that NAME will save us from our sins. Belief in that NAME will fill us with the Holy Ghost. Belief in that NAME will cast out every devil. It will heal our bodies and meet every other need that confronts us. But, what if we Christians fail to come to Him in FAITH expecting all needs to be met? It is then that unbelief lifts up its ugly head and we become guilty before our Faithful God.

John 6:37, "**All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me, and Him that COMMETH to Me I**

"UNBELIEF"

THE SOCIALLY ACCEPTED SIN

By C.W. Wood

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will in no wise cast out." But, how are we to come? According to James 1:6, we are to come, "**In Faith, nothing wavering.**" But, Lord, that seems so impossible to some of us! We greatly desire to come in faith; we greatly desire to not waver but we have many problems in trying to believe. Can you help us with our unbelief? This is a very scriptural way in which to approach our Father and He never fails to answer this cry.

We know, do we not, that He answers with His Word! In His Word lives total Power, waiting to be released by revelation to those who honestly seek. In His Holy, precious Word lies Power to drive out every devil of doubt and unbelief. For example, let us look at the following Word.

"**He that BELIEVETH NOT God hath made Him a LIAR, because he believed not the record that God gave His Son.**" (I John 5:10) With this scripture, I do believe that the Holy Ghost intends to shake us awake. Many of us have not realized that failure to receive the RECORD of God's written Word (Promises) is to come against His CHARACTER. It is, in God's own Words, "**To make Him a Liar.**" We would shrink from opening our mouth and making such a statement, yet by our actions we prove the fact that this evil is in our hearts. Knowing how dull we can become in our spiritual senses, the Holy Ghost sets forth another grave warning. He admonishes us to

check our hearts. Heb. 3:12, "**Take heed "BRETHEREN", least there be in any of you an EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF in departing from the Living God.**"

Please note that this warning is given to BRETHERN, those who are duty bound to believe all that the Father has recorded. Also, notice that failure to do so is called "**Departing from God.**" This then, is the terrible indictment connected with unbelief. It separates the Soul from Jesus Christ. How many of us, in times past, have understood that failure to believe a promise of God is to deface His Character? It is to strike Him a blow in the most tender part of His loving heart. It is, as the scripture says, to call Him a liar. What sin could be worse than that?

If one of our close friends should let it be known that they doubted our word concerning our continued relationship with them, we would be grieved. And, if after several days had passed, with us reaffirming our promise, they came and stated that though they had TRIED TO BELIEVE what we said, they could not do it, then insult would have been added to injury. We could only conclude that after much deliberation, our friend had decided that we were, after all, not trustworthy, that we had, in their mind, lied to them.'

But, is this not how we grieve the One who is Perfect in His Faithfulness? We read His promises, we pray over them, then testify, "Father, I have tried to believe you, but I just can't do it. To approach the

Creator and say, "I am TRYING to believe You" is, in itself, a reproach. Where is the TRYING? What is there to TRY? He who TRYS to believe God has not had the revelation of His Perfect Character. When the knowledge strikes our hearts that our God cannot sin, He cannot lie, He cannot do one of us a wrong, then all TRYING TO BELIEVE HIM is gone. We just simple TRUST Him in the same way we would trust a Godly mother or father who had made us a promise.

We have gone through many trials, some very grievous, and some long lasting, but not one but what bettered us spiritually. To a spiritual mind, they have all been for our own advantage. Then, is it not reasonable to conclude that He who has been with us "**In six troubles**" will not forsake us in the seventh? Can we not look at what He has done for us in the past and know that He will keep us until the end? The Lord has said, "**Come and let us REASON together.**" (Isa. 1:18) Then, we should not REASON contrary to past evidence! How can a BORN-AGAIN person ever be so skeptical as to doubt God? There is only one way it can be done, and that is to fail in the scriptural revelation of God's Perfect Character. But, if there are those who insist upon doubting Him, then it is the duty of ministers to at least let them know what is involved in their sin. They may not always receive our testimony, but our duty remains the same. We are to bear witness of the truthfulness of our God and to the exceeding sinfulness of doubting Him, or calling Him a liar.

The sin of unbelief has come to be socially accepted in many churches. This greatest of all sins is so misunderstood that some who claim to believe God's End-Time Message think nothing of testifying in open church of "Having no Faith."

Friends, this sin is no trifling matter. How dare we speak of it in such a light and unashamed way! The whole of God's Word teaches that only Judgment can follow continued and unrepented Unbelief. Adultery is quickly forgiven. Murder, when cast into the bleach of the Blood, is washed away. Lying, stealing, and swearing are cast into the Sea of Forgetfulness. We do understand that these things are wrong, and that our God hates them, but will we fail to acknowledge and repent of the UNBELIEF that causes us to doubt some of His promises? To doubt "Him" is the sin of sins!

The Lord would have our crime made clear to us. He, through His Word, would have us to be so horrified by it that we will continue in it no longer! Far be it from God's called ministers to so sympathize with people that they feel "comfortable" in their unbelief. Some have such a wrong spirit upon them that they suppose they deserve pity in their unbelief and that they are not to be blamed for it. (I speak of Christians who sit under the teaching of Faith, but continue in unbelief.) No sort of comfort should be extended to unbelief so as to encourage the guilty one to continue in it. For every Christian who declares, "I cannot believe", the problem is within himself and in no way in the One who is suppose to be believed. Neither is the problem in the FACTS as they are presented in the Word. There is only one excuse for unbelief and it is (Rom.10:14), "**How can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?**" This excuse will work for the heathen, but not for us Christians, for we have read and "heard" about Jesus and know the Gospel. So, the only excuse that God accepts is not for Christians. Of us, it can only be

said, "**He that believeth not hath made Him a liar.**" (1 John 5:10)

It is not that some of us have called God a LIAR once or twice, but that we have made it a lifestyle, refusing to believe His promises month after month and year after year. To tell a good friend that he is a liar once is a great insult, but to continue in the practice of contradicting him, would ruin the fellowship for certain. Then, what a piece of wickedness it is on our part to do such to God when He repeats His faithfulness over and over.

If a person continues to say he cannot believe God, and by his life testifies that Christ cannot be trusted, what will happen to him? We can only say what the Word says, "**HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT SHALL BE DAMNED.**" May those of us in the Message never know what that means. If a person says to us, "I cannot believe", then what shall we answer him? Only this, "Then you must suffer the consequences." (We speak of those who have been presented the Light.) If God were false, we might escape Judgment for unbelief, but if He be true, then Judgment is on the way, except we repent and change our mind.

You may ask, "Is that all that is required of me in the matter of believing, that I simply change my mind?" We answer that this is all the Lord requires of us, as OUR PART in Faith! The Christian's so called "inability" to believe, lies in his own mind or will. It is because he WILL NOT that he CANNOT. Jesus said, "**And ye WILL NOT come to Me, that ye might have Life.**" (John 5:40) In Mat. 13:15, He said again, "**For this peoples heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED.....**" Listen well to these words, you Christians who

say you CANNOT BELIEVE. It would be far more correct to say "I WILL NOT BELIEVE." Our unbelief is our own fault, or else there would be no Judgment following it.

Unbelief is a disease, a sickness placed in our minds by the enemy of our soul, and it is also a crime. It is a source of terrible misery to the Christian, but we earn our misery by our CHOOSING not to believe. God has so ordained that we must CHOOSE WHO and WHAT we will believe. There is no escaping His Law, we MUST choose. To choose God's Word is LIFE, to refuse to believe it is DEATH. Let God Himself testify of this to us.

Deut. 30:14-19, "**But the Word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. See I have set before thee this day LIFE AND GOOD, AND DEATH AND EVIL. In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes, and His Judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply. And the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shall be drawn away (by you own wrong choice) and worship other Gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land.....I call Heaven and Earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you LIFE and DEATH, BLESSING and CURSING; therefore CHOOSE life, that both thou and thy seed may live.**"

Do we still deny that we have the ability to believe God's Word? Then, think on this, has God set before us His Word, and then made it impossible for us to believe it? Thousands times thousands have the capacity for believing lies, and do so. Has a faithful God given this capacity to believe UNTRUTHS, and then withheld the capacity to believe the TRUTH? Yes you say, this is ELECTION! But wait, even though some were ordained to believe, ALL are given the opportunity, so that every man lives or dies by his own choice. "**If ANY man will come to Me, I will in no wise cast him out,**" said Jesus. (John 6:37)

We look for a more complicated system than just to "BELIEVE AND LIVE." The truth is, dear friend, that God accepts our CHOICE to believe, and calls us Believers. By the same token, He looks at our REFUSAL to believe Him and calls us UNBELIEVERS. We hear it preached that faith is mysterious, but in all truth, where is the Mystery? Could there be anything more simple and child-like than, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved?**" The whole man will be saved by our simple choice. But, you say, "Faith is Supernatural" and you try to make it less than that. Surely faith is Supernatural, and we do not try to make it otherwise. We are only stressing man's part in the matter. Faith only comes by revelation, and revelation is a Supernatural act of God. But, what is it that prepares a heart to receive revelation? It is the MIND (the gateway to the Soul) being opened, and that will forever be our individual responsibility. To say otherwise, is to accuse God of sending a man to

hell with no chance to be re-deemed.

So then, although faith is "Supernatural" on God's side, it is quite "Natural" on our side. He never asks us to do the impossible. We cannot give ourselves a revelation. He reserves the impossible things for Himself, but at the same time holds us responsible for what we can do, which is CHOOSE to believe! Have we made an ironclad decision to believe, and will we continue to believe in spite of every emotion in us being contrary? Then do not fret about God's Supernatural part being fulfilled. You will surely have the Faith of God that no devil can stand against. God will send it. Supernatural faith is His reward for our believing. (Heb. 11:6)

Praise His Holy Name; do you not feel faith rising in your heart even now. If so, He is its Author, and He has sent it because you CHOSE TO BELIEVE.

We live in the midst of dying people. All around us multitudes are daily reaping the deadly harvest from their unbelief. What can be said to stem the tide of this death march? A Prophet has come and spoken for God.

QUOTE: GOD OF THIS EVIL AGE, PAGE 30, "Satan, the God of this evil age, by his knowledge, causing the people to eat from his tree of GOOD AND EVIL, he says he is building a greater civilization by his knowledge of good and evil. But, Christ's little Virgin Word Flock doesn't care for his KNOWLEDGE. She keeps free from him." (Or do we?) (End quote)

QUOTE: DEMONOLOGY PAGE 37, "The whole armor of God is our Faith. We haven't got one natural thing of this world that we can depend on. Every-

thing of the Christian is a faith act. Everything SUPERNATURAL, nothing NATURAL. So, we don't look at things natural. Because we are operating in the SUPERNATURAL." (Or are we?) (End quote)

Were the words spoken above products of the Prophet's own mind? No! They came straight out of the Word of God.

Jer. 17:5, "Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, (trusts in the arm of flesh) and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For He shall be like the Heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green, and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."

Why so much preaching on FAITH? Are not other things necessary to be preached? Certainly other things must be preached, but in their proper place. Faith must come first, because until we are believing God, we have done nothing at all. Until we are believing His written Word, we are con-

demned! (John 3:18) The only way to be pardoned from this sentence is to believe God. **"Without Faith it is impossible to please Him."** (Heb. 11:6) Faith is the shield that quenches the fiery darts of Satan, but unbelief discards this shield and exposes us to his attacks. God's ministers have not even laid the foundation until they have first brought you to believe God.

Most of the people who sit in churches today and "Hear the Gospel" are a condemned group. They are under the sentence of DEATH, Because they "Believe not the Gospel." To believe the Gospel is to LIVE BY IT. The sin of failing to live by God's Word cannot be concealed from Him. Be sure that our sin will find us out. We would pray with all our heart that the people in this Message would find out their sin before it is too late. To be under the sentence of death is one thing, but to be sentenced and not know it is quite another.

A man, who was sentenced to death, and in the prison awaiting execution, does not usually spend his little time left eating, drinking, dancing, and reveling. But, is this not what the generality of the Church people are doing? They sing the songs of Zion, they beat the tambourine, they rejoice at the music of the organ and piano, without ever thinking that they are condemned by God for their unbelief in many of His promises. The rejoicing of these unbelievers will

be short, for unless they CHOOSE to believe all of the Gospel, they are on sinking sand.

It is every man's responsibility to check himself to see if his heart is prepared for the Rapture. Do we have the Spirit of Christ in us? If so, His first duty is to, **"Convince the World of sin; of sin because they BELIEVE NOT ON HIM."** (John 16:8-9) What good is it to tell a man about riches in Heaven, to speak to him of crowns, and robes, and honors, and of ruling kingdoms, if he does not believe the promises of God and strive to live by them?

Is the spiritual weather stormy where you are dear Message Believer? Are the waves beating against your little ship, waves of sorrow, unmet needs, physical ailments and pressure from the world? For those who can believe, Jesus comes walking on top of all these waves. His purpose is to bring us good cheer in the midst of every kind of storm. Many things are happening in this hour to cause unbelievers to fear and quake, but for those who can believe it our Lord Jesus is always near, always kind and loving, always mighty to save. He, alone, is the true and sole antidote for fear and grief. But, it is only in proportion, as we BELIEVE His Word.

May God help us each one with our unbelief! Amen.

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