

Relief from the Spirit of Unbelief

It has been my observation that many Christians who are Americans suffer from a spirit of unbelief. I believe that this is a cultural phenomenon. I am not limiting the operation of this spirit to the American culture by any means, but being American with limited exposure to other cultures, I am going to explain why I think we, as a culture, are so attacked by this spirit.

The Santa Claus Mentality

In our culture we are taught, either directly or indirectly, that there is one God who can do anything He wants, who will give you what you want if you ask Him. Even those of us who were not raised in Christian homes still absorb this perception of God. It is part of our communities and our culture. Unfortunately, that pretty much completes our education about God except for the bit about we have to be good or He won't like us. How does this information translate to a child in distress or to a child who really really wants something?

She asks God to make Mommy and Daddy stop fighting. He asks God to make Daddy stop drinking, to keep Grandma from dying, to make Mommy and Daddy get back together... You get my drift. The child wants a pony more than anything else in the whole world. She prays for a pony every Christmas. And every Christmas ... no pony.

What does a child believe when faced with such deep disappointment?

God is Not to be Trusted

As Proverbs 13:12 warns us, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick." Children do not understand why God would ignore their requests. All they know is that He is supposed to answer prayers by giving them what they ask for. That's what they have been taught. So it is very painful when a child's heartfelt desire appears to be of no consequence to God. The child must then come up with a way to protect himself from feeling that terrible pain ever again. In his heart he decides that God is not to be trusted. He might think, "I won't ever believe in You again." If he doesn't believe, he can't be hurt. Right?

Empowered Unbelief

The child grows up and learns more about the Lord. He gets good, solid, correct information about faith and trust. This is good, but it does not address the pain lodged in the heart. It does not extract the promise that little child made to "never believe in God ever again, because He doesn't care about me or what I want. He doesn't hear my prayers. He's not to be trusted."

It is at this point that most Christians become aware that they struggle to believe God. Especially if they are asking Him for something that is very important to them. They might glide by the small stuff, but let a serious concern take center stage and all of a sudden every time you pray you discern (feel) that you just don't believe. Does anybody witness with that?

What you are discerning is a spirit of unbelief that is attached to the childish promise you made to yourself. Remember?

<p>The Pool Ministries P. O. Box 40507 Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404</p>	<p>205.535.6064 www.thepoolministries.org thepool@thepoolministries.org</p>	1
<p>© Sue Bowman & The Pool Ministries - REPRINT AGREEMENT: Duplication and re-transmission of this copyrighted material is permitted if complete source and website information is included. (revision date 6/24/2008)</p>		

"I will never trust God again. I won't believe He wants to help me, then I can't be hurt like this again."

The spirit of unbelief is "helping" you never trust or believe God again.

Relief from Unbelief

This spirit has proven to be easy to get rid of. Simply acknowledge that you were hurt when your childish prayers were not answered the way you thought they should be. Ask the Lord to forgive you for judging Him as mean, bad, uncaring, untrustworthy, not real ... whatever feels like a good fit for you. Then break the promise you made to protect yourself from pain by not believing that He wants to help you.

Say this: I break the promise (vow) I made to not believe in You, to not trust You, to not believe that You hear my prayers or care about what I want. I send all evil "helpers" who have been helping me keep my promise, especially the spirit of unbelief, to the feet of Jesus for judgment.

Good Results

I prayed this way a few years ago and led my Poolers in this prayer shortly afterwards. The results have been good. We bump into other problems, but that shifting, sliding presence of a spirit of unbelief is not among them.

The Pool Ministries P. O. Box 40507 Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404	205.535.6064 www.thepoolministries.org thepool@thepoolministries.org	2
© Sue Bowman & The Pool Ministries - REPRINT AGREEMENT: Duplication and re-transmission of this copyrighted material is permitted if complete source and website information is included. (revision date 6/24/2008)		