

Series: Divine Healing Series
Title: Session 16 – Faith Blockers
Author: Eduard Serediuc
Date: March 18th, 2019

How to Believe

5. Faith Blockers

- On the other hand, there are things that happen to us or things that we do which choke or destroy our conviction, and block faith:
 - **Sinful actions** – create markers in our mind and it becomes more difficult for our mind to trust in God (because of condemnation), and that the word will actually work. They block faith at all levels. You remain saved and justified, but it just makes you ineffective here on earth. You live like mere human beings. It also blocks faith by analogy (David’s example): since you didn’t have victory in one area, what makes you think you will have victory in another area? That’s what your mind will tell you.
 - **Past defeats or other people’s experiences** – if you prayed for healing for someone and they died, that experience will create a powerful marker in your mind that will slow you down in faith. Next you time you have to minister, the first thing will come to your mind will be that experience and will block or weaken your conviction. Then there are the experiences of other people of God that we trust and respect and who didn’t have results and ended shamefully. The conversation in our mind goes like this: “If they didn’t make it, who am I to think that I will make it or it will be different with me?” But you don’t know what those people actually believed.
 - **Other distractions** – Pleasures, innocent entertainment, worries, depression, sudden afflictions, bitterness, offence, they all choke the word and block faith.
- Everything we hear, say or do will either strengthen or weaken your faith in word. There is no middle ground or neutral ground. That is why intentionally we need to hear, say, do those things that strengthen and enhance our confidence in the word.

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us,**

- So, God can do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, but it is according to the power that works in us and through us, the amount that we are able to release.

6. Not Faith in Your Faith

- You don’t have faith in your faith, because that is actually faith in you - humanism. Whenever you have to minister to someone, you don’t say: “I don’t know if I have enough faith.” Because by saying that you’re actually saying that you don’t know if God can be trusted or not, to keep His

word. Plus, you will never feel that you have enough faith. We don't put faith in our faith, we put faith on the word. And we cannot do anything at the moment of ministering. Whatever level of conviction you have, go ahead with it. The results will come anyway. However, depending on how convinced you are, they will come slower or faster, completely or partially.

- When talking about faith, we're not dealing with an amount of faith that we need to grow. It is rather a matter of perseverance and patience in training to release more. Let's say we have a sick person and the medical report shows one thing, but the Bible says something else, that the end result needs to be complete healing. Then we lay hands over the sick person, and after that we persevere in that conviction and faith until we see the end result.
- When I minister to a sick person, I don't focus on the sickness and try to believe that it will leave, or try to convince my mind that it will disappear. I don't focus on trying to see it disappeared (like picturing it gone), or on how this will happen or when. This is positivism and this is what the so-called "The Secret" movement propagates. But I focus my faith on the word that was spoken by God about that situation, which is law in the spiritual realm, and which needs to be fulfilled no matter what.
- When you begin focusing on the word, thoughts of doubt and unbelief might come to your mind to tempt you. But that is all they are: a temptation. Having thoughts of unbelief doesn't mean that you are already in unbelief. You are walking in unbelief when you let those thoughts to influence and change your actions and speech. Example: when you fast of food, isn't true that you are sometimes tempted to eat? Ok, does that temptation in itself break your fast? No. But if you let it linger long enough in your mind, it will soon surely break your fast 😊. Example: The same way with Eve in the garden, there was no problem about the temptation to eat the forbidden fruit. She could have looked and be tempted, but she actually sinned the moment she acted on the temptation.

7. The Calling of Things That Are Not

Romans 4:13–19 (NKJV)

¹³For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

¹⁴For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect,

¹⁵because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

¹⁷(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and ***calls those things which do not exist as though they did***;

¹⁸who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."

¹⁹And not being weak in faith, ***he did not consider his own body, already dead*** (since he was about a hundred years old), and ***the deadness of Sarah's womb***.

- Another principle about faith is the following: there is a great difference between calling things that are not as though they were, and calling things that are as though they are not. God's method is to call things that are not. In other words, He calls them into manifestation. By doing that, He nullifies the problem that exists.

- If the problem exists, you don't deny that the problem exists. If you are sick, you don't deny that you are sick. But on the other hand, you don't want to always be confessing your sickness either. Some who misunderstand this message think if they are sick, they should say, "I'm not sick." Just denying you are sick won't make you well. In fact, that could be a lie. But there is a difference between a lie and a confession!
- Confession is a method of calling things that are not as though they were. If I am sick, I will confess: I am healed by the stripes of Jesus. I am delivered from the authority of darkness. I am redeemed from the curse of the law. I am calling my body well and healthy in Jesus' name!
- I am not denying sickness; I am denying its right to exist in my body. I'm calling for health and healing in my body. That is God's method.
- This is a matter of agreeing with the truth of God and not with the facts. Although you don't agree with the facts, you don't deny them.
- If you notice in verse 19, Abraham was aware and saw the facts, that his body was dead, and Sarah's womb was dead, and that they were very old. However, he chose not to consider them. He didn't deny them, but he disconsidered them. Example: It's pretty much like when you fast. The hunger pangs are a fact sometimes during the fast, and they can be pretty strong. But you choose to disconsider them.

8. Gift of Faith vs. Faith Development

- You can be healed by a gift of faith in someone or by a gift of healing. However, the fact that a person operates in the gift of faith doesn't have anything to do with the spiritual development of that person, or the faith development as a fruit by renewal of the mind with the word.
- The New Testament book where Paul talks most extensively about the gifts of the Spirit is 1 Corinthians 12. However, he also says about those Christians that they were carnal. This is the only book where the church is specifically told it was carnal.
- To the most carnal church, he gave the most comprehensive list of the gifts of the Spirit. Today in church we believe that if we get spiritual enough maybe God will give us a gift. And it is exactly the opposite. The more spiritual you are, the less spiritual gifts you need. The more carnal you are, the more God has to show up with bursts of power here and there and heal people because He loves them.
- The gift is just poured out into you by the Holy Spirit without your cooperation in spiritual growth. That is how revivals happened in the past and how one-man shows happened. That is because God had mercy on the church, but that it's not the norm for the New Testament church. I am not looking for revival in order to see miracles, I am revival. I live revived all the time. William Booth said once: „I am not looking for a move of God, I am the move of God.”
- Most times those people with gifts were bankrupt in all the other areas: doctrinal accuracy, no

godly character, etc. All they got was the gift. Ultimately most of them failed miserably because of that. They were more prone to pride and failure, because they didn't have a sustained wholistic spiritual growth. If you need help, go and ask that person to pray for you, but don't listen to their teaching.

- Gifts have nothing to do with spiritual maturity. Jesus never operated by gifts. The Bible says Jesus perceived other people's thoughts, He healed. Jesus operated in the fullness of the Spirit, and when you operate like that, you can fulfill different needs at different times.

Romans 1:11 (NKJV)

¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart to you *some spiritual gift*, so that you may be established—

- When Paul speaks here about imparting some spiritual gift, he is talking about spiritual blessings like: a healing, a word of knowledge, a word of wisdom, teaching, a prophecy. These are the spiritual gifts he was talking about and they all function through the fullness of the Spirit according to the needs. They are not to be separate only on certain people and for life.
- This all goes back to the New Creation filter that I was talking about. When you are born again, your spirit is recreated and then by the renewal of the mind, you start manifesting all the qualities and abilities of the fullness of the Father (all spiritual gifts). The New Creation is not supposed to function by gifts, but by the fullness of the Spirit.
- In the Old Testament, when the prophets were giving prophecies, they were killed if they didn't get it right (if they didn't get the prophecy from God accurately). All they had to do was to say what they heard. There was no interpretation, nothing. God didn't work through their soul. God just spoke to them and they said exactly what they heard. In the New Testament, it doesn't work that way. God works from the recreated spirit, through the soul. That is why many times the message of God can be tainted, and we are told to judge prophecy, make sure it is accurate scripturally, and take what is good.
- Let's say someone comes to you and gives you a prophecy like: "God is moving you into new things, into a new anointing. A double portion of His power will come upon you." Now, when you hear that, you can realize that in some areas the mind of that person is not renewed, because there is no double portion in the New Testament. The only double portion is being born-again and filled with the fullness of the Spirit. I have the Lord; I don't need a double portion. However, you can take the message that God is going to move you into some new things.

9. Great Faith vs. Son Faith

- There are 2 people in the gospels about which Jesus said they had great faith: the Roman centurion (Matthew 8:5-13) and the Syrophenician woman (Matthew 15:21-28).

Matthew 8:5-13 (NKJV)

⁵Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,

⁶saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

⁷And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

⁸The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed."

⁹For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

¹⁰When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!

¹¹And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

¹²But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

¹³Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

Matthew 15:21–28 (NKJV)

²¹Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

²²And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”

²³But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.”

²⁴But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

²⁵Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”

²⁶But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.”

²⁷And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”

²⁸Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

- The reason why Jesus said they had great faith was because they were both Gentiles and not connected to God by a relationship or covenant. They didn’t have any promise or any foundation on which to base their faith onto.
- However, as new creations we are sons and daughters of God. We don’t need great faith, we have faith and we are connected to God.
- Example: How many of you know that if a beggar on the street asks me for 100\$ he might not get it? But if my son asks me for 100\$, he might get it, because we are connected.
- We never question God’s ability to do things, but His willingness to do them. And that is more hurtful than doubting the ability of God. God’s willingness trumps even His ability.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰**For all the promises of God in Him are Yes**, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.