

FORCES THAT FORM YOUR FUTURE: BELIEFS

08/31/08 Student Notes

Matt 9:29 ...According to your faith be it unto you.

(MSG) "Become what you believe."

Our present condition and our future positions are shaped, molded, and formed by certain forces. Just like our thoughts are a force and our words are a force, so are our beliefs a force. Our lives will go in the _____we believe they will go. What we believe and how we believe holds remarkable power over our lives; what we think about God, how we receive from God, and even where we'll spend eternity. That's how important beliefs are.

To know what you will receive, you need to _____your beliefs. The power of a belief will work to make what we believe a reality. Our most compelling beliefs, whether positive or negative, typically become a _____. You can believe for death as easily as you can believe for life. Faith works that way. This is why it is important to believe the right things. The truth of God's Word is the "_____".

By accurately discerning your own beliefs, you create an opportunity to change your beliefs. **Why continue to believe something that can lead to undesirable circumstances? Why believe something that creates negative energy (worry and anxiety) in your life?** Beliefs can be chosen and developed to create what is sometimes referred to as a "belief system". Once decided upon, your belief system will be a tremendous force in forming your future.

We all have a belief system that we live by. We may not always consciously think about it, but it is still there. **What is a belief system?** A belief system is a group of standards, principles, or values that govern what we think, do, say, believe, or have faith in. Sometimes our belief systems can be faulty or wrong based on bad information, misinterpreted experiences, or erroneous teachings and they have to be confronted and changed. If our belief systems are solidly based on the Word of God and His power then they are most secure and can be trusted.

Mark 5:21-36

21 Jesus went back across to the other side of the lake. There at the lakeside a large crowd gathered around him.

22 Jairus, an official of the local synagogue, arrived, and when he saw Jesus, he threw himself down at his feet

23 and begged him earnestly, "My little daughter is very sick. Please come and place your hands on her, so that she will get well and live!"

24 Then Jesus started off with him. So many people were going along with Jesus that they were crowding him from every side.

25 There was a woman who had suffered terribly from severe bleeding for twelve years, 26 even though she had been treated by many doctors. She had spent all her money, but instead of getting better she got worse all the time.

27 She had heard about Jesus, so she came in the crowd behind him,

28 saying to herself, "If I just touch his clothes, I will get well."

29 She touched his cloak, and her bleeding stopped at once; and she had the feeling inside herself that she was healed of her trouble.

30 At once Jesus knew that power had gone out of him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"
31 His disciples answered, "You see how the people are crowding you; why do you ask who touched you?"
32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.
33 The woman realized what had happened to her, so she came, trembling with fear, knelt at his feet, and told him the whole truth.
34 Jesus said to her, "My daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your trouble."
35 While Jesus was saying this, some messengers came from Jairus' house and told him, "Your daughter has died. Why bother the Teacher any longer?"
36 Jesus paid no attention to what they said, but told him, "**Don't be afraid, only believe.**"

3 things Jairus believed:

- 1- My little daughter is very sick
- 2- She will get well
- 3- She will live

He not only believed she was sick, but he also believed she would get well and live.

How did he believe it would take place? By Jesus coming and laying His hands on her.

Jesus will always meet you at your _____.

What we believe about God determines our _____.

What we believe about God determines _____ we receive from Him.

Do we believe that God is a good God?

Do we believe that God only wants good things for our lives?

Do we believe that God is our source of troubles or sickness?

Do we believe that bad things happen to us because God is trying to teach us lesson?

Do we believe the Bible is true at all times and on every occasion?

How we answer these questions proves what we really believe about God, and explains why we receive the things we do and why we live like we do.

Our belief in the Bible's accuracy will decide whether we act according to its guidance or not.

What 3 obstacles did Jairus face?

- 1- The large crowd
- 2- The woman with issue of blood (somebody always has an issue)
- 3- The report that she died

How did Jarius maintain his faith during these trials? He was convinced that Jesus was his only hope.

2Tim 1:12 ...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able...

Heb 3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to *the* end.

Being convinced and fully persuaded is authentic, deep level believing.

How did Jesus respond when they heard that Jairus' daughter had died? "Don't be afraid, only believe."

Why do you think Jesus said this so quickly to Jairus? Because fear can work very quickly to paralyze our faith. Fear will _____ our faith. What Jesus was telling him was this: "If you don't get fearful about this news, you'll see that your faith is sufficient to fulfill your request. Believing is enough." Fear will cripple our faith, but our faith will also cripple fear.

Look at the woman with the issue of blood. **What was her case?**

- 1- She suffered terribly from severe bleeding for twelve years
- 2- She had been treated by many doctors
- 3- She had spent all her money
- 4- She got worse

This let's us know that it is never too late! Jairus' daughter died; this woman is almost dead. Faith will work when we're ready to work it.

What did she do?

- 1- She heard about Jesus (Rom. 10:17 "Faith comes by hearing...")
- 2- She came to Him
- 3- She kept saying to herself, "If I just touch his clothes, I will get well."
- 4- She touched his cloak

What were the results? Her bleeding stopped at once. She felt in her body she was healed.

What did Jesus say about it? Your faith has made you well/whole.

What we believe affects what we receive. How we see God and what we believe about God's desire for us will affect how we _____ Him.

Mark 9:23 If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.

Both of these people had to believe God for their answer. Both of these people had trying circumstances. Both of these people had to maintain their faith. Jairus believed Jesus had to get to his daughter. The woman believed she had to get to Jesus. Jairus believed Jesus had to touch his daughter. The woman believed she had to touch Jesus. Both of these people received exactly what they believed for. Your faith will work that way too!

What variables usually have a negative effect on our faith?

- 1- Fear of the unknown, 2- Input from others, 3- Conditioned thinking, 4- Lack of the knowledge of God's Word, 5- Relying on feelings, 6- Being led by emotions, 7- Listening to the devil, 8- Sin, 9- Wrong expectations, 10- Delays.

Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

Jesus _____ people to believe for what they desired and prayed for. He let us know that a person's beliefs can _____ their future.

If we look at the Israelites as an example of believing we find that those who believed they couldn't possess the Promised Land and those that believed they could possess it were both correct. (Numbers 13) Those who believed they were too insignificant, too small, too few, and too weak died in the wilderness over a 40 year period. Those who believed their God was big enough to deliver on His word took possession. It may have taken them 40 years to obtain it, but they didn't _____ on their faith. Neither should you! No matter how long it takes; don't stop believing!

-When we live by our beliefs we will find that our behavior, our words, and our thoughts all stay in line accordingly with our beliefs.

Jesus said, "I have come to do Thy will O, God", and He lived a life that corresponded with what He believed. Every action, every thought, every word proved it.

-As we adjust our beliefs, we also adjust our behavior; whether consciously or unconsciously. The children of Israel left Egypt with the intent of inheriting the Promised Land, but when they encountered opposition they began to adjust what they believed and that led to the adjustment in their behavior. They reacted towards God and others in fear, wishing they had died in Egypt or at least in the desert. (See Numbers 14) What you believe has a direct effect on how you live; or even, whether you will live or die.

-We cannot lower the standard of our beliefs without lowering the standard of our behavior.

Heb 3:19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Their behavior dictated their results.

How do you really know that what you believe will work? When it is tested.

How do you really know that God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory? When you really have to trust Him to do just that. It's easy to say that God is our need-meeter when we have a paycheck regularly coming in, but what about when it ends?

What do you believe? What do you believe about your health? What do you believe about your circumstances? What do you believe about your career? What do you believe about your children? What do you believe about your future?

Matt 9:29 ...According to your faith be it unto you. **(MSG)** "Become what you believe."

If what you believe doesn't work, then change what you believe to line up with God's Word.