

Unbelief Is the Root Cause of All the Other Sins

Zac Poonen:

1 John 2:6 says, "The one who says he abides in Christ ought himself to **WALK IN THE SAME MANNER AS HE WALKED.**"

How did Jesus walk? Was it in victory **SOME** of the time, or **MOST** of the time or **ALL** the time? We know the answer. He was tempted in all points as we are, but He never sinned.

"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Heb.4:15).

We are now told to walk even as He walked. Is that possible here on earth? Would God tell us to do something that He knows very well we cannot do? No. That is unimaginable. Even earthly fathers do not make unreasonable demands on their children. How much less God!

Some of the saddest words written in the New Testament are found in Matthew 13:58 - "He did not do many miracles there **BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF**".

The parallel passage in Mark 6:5 states, "He **COULD NOT** do any miracle thereâ€.

He had wanted to do great things for those people in His home-town. But He was limited by their unbelief. Unbelief ties the hands of Almighty God so that He cannot do for us the things that He wants to.

I wonder if there have been miracles that God had wanted to do for you, but which He could not do because of your unbelief. At the judgment-seat of Christ, will any of us have to hear these words, "I could not do all that I wanted for you and through you because of your unbelief?" What regret there will be in our hearts if we discover that at the end of our earthly life! It is good to think about it now.

The same principle applies in entering into a life of victory over sin. We can fast and pray and thirst - and still never get anywhere - until we **BELIEVE** that God **CAN** and **WILL** lead us into such a life.

Satan knows that you can't get anything from God except through faith. So you can imagine how he will try to fill your heart with unbelief. Unbelief is a greater danger than lying or adultery, for these latter are easily recognized as sins, whereas unbelief isn't.

Hebrews 3:12 says, "Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God."

An evil heart of unbelief can cause us to fall away from God. Unbelief is the root cause of all the other sins.

Romans 6:14 states, "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace."

There the Holy Spirit tells us very plainly that if we are under grace, sin cannot have dominion over us. That is so plainly written that even a child can understand it. In spite of that, many believers still do not believe in the possibility of living a life of victory over sin.

God wants you to live in victory. It doesn't matter how dirty your thought-life is, or how long you have been defeated by anger. The Lord can set you completely free and give you a pure heart. But He can't do it for you until you believe.

The Bible says that what we believe in our heart, we must confess with our mouth.

Rom. 10:10 states, "For with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

This is an important principle - for it is through the confession of our mouth that we give expression to our faith. This in turn leads to deliverance from sin's power. And so we must speak the word of our testimony to Satan, saying, "I believe that God is going to lead me into a life of victory over sin." Thus we can overcome Satan.

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"And they overcame him (Satan) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death" (Rev.12:11).

Keep making that confession, each time you fall, until victory becomes a reality in your life. Don't be discouraged if it doesn't come overnight. God will surely honour the confession of your mouth.