

Introduction:

- We are going to look at the topic of faith tonight, particularly building an atmosphere of faith.
- I have been running into unbelief in others and in myself.
- I want to read a quote from Ever Increasing Faith, Smith Wigglesworth: *"One day (a man) came to me and said, "My wife is dying." I said, "Brother Clark, why don't you believe God? [He did not ask the man to pray, he told him to believe.] God can raise her up if you will only believe Him."* He asked me to come to his house, and I looked for someone to go with me. I went to a certain rich man who was very zealous for God, and spent much money in opening up rescue missions, and I asked him to go with me. He said, "Never you mind me. You go yourself, but I don't take to this kind of business." Then I thought of a man who could pray by the hour. When he was on his knees he could go round the world three times and come out at the same place. I asked him to go with me and said to him, "You'll have a real chance this time. Keep at it, and quit when you're through." (Some go on after they are through.). Brother Nichols, for that was his name, went with me and started praying. He asked the Lord to comfort the husband in his great bereavement and prayed for the orphans and a lot more on this line. I cried, "O my God, stop this man." But there was no stopping him and he went on praying and there was not a particle of faith in anything he uttered. He did stop at last, and I said, "Brother Clark, it's now your turn to pray. He started, "Lord, answer the prayer of my brother and comfort me in this great bereavement and sorrow. Prepare me to face this great trial." I cried out, "My God, stop this man." The whole atmosphere was being charged with unbelief. I had a glass bottle full of oil and I went up to the woman and poured the whole lot on her in the name of Jesus. Suddenly Jesus appeared, standing at the foot of the bed. He smiled and vanished. The woman stood up, perfectly healed, and she is a strong woman today." Excerpt From Ever Increasing Faith, Smith Wigglesworth, <https://books.apple.com/us/book/ever-increasing-faith/id1544085734>, pp 32, chapter 5.
- Yikes! Listen to Smith:
 - *The whole atmosphere was charged with unbelief.*
 - *There was not a particle of faith in anything he uttered.*

I. What Charges The Atmosphere With Unbelief?**A. Words charge the atmosphere with unbelief**

1. This is a battlefield that we fight on everyday. Smith would not let a newspaper in his house! Ie Lester Sumrall.
2. We hear words from others, music, TV, social media that create the atmosphere of unbelief.
3. When the atmosphere is charged with unbelief, no great things can be done for God. "*And He marveled because of their unbelief.*" (Mk 6:4-6). Mark 6:4-6. Jesus at

home in Nazareth.

- B. *"The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."* (Matthew 12:35-37, ESV)
1. This section of scripture starts with: *"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."*
 2. The heart speaks based upon what is in it... the storehouse. Greek word for treasure means - 'what is stored and where it is stored at.' A storehouse is where you deposit things.
 3. A good man puts good things/treasures in his storehouse! So he can make withdraws when needed.
 4. Does what you are putting/allowing into your storehouse agree with the Word of God?
 5. When you have a storehouse, you put in things that you value. The Word in the storehouse of you heart is a treasure you value. But when we let other things fill our heart it produces unbelief. *"by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."* vs.37. Note: it is the words that make the difference.
 6. *"From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield of his lips."* (Proverbs 18:20, ESV). From the fruit of his mouth! He is satisfied.
 7. Look at the next verse: *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."* (Proverbs 18:21, ESV)
 8. "We are talking about words that charge the atmosphere with unbelief. "Whatever we speak is going to produce fruit. Always. No exceptions." Barry O Johnson.

II. What Does The Atmosphere Of Unbelief Look Like? Two scriptures:

A. Mark 5:21-ff.

1. Woman with issue of blood. Atmosphere of Faith? Yes! Of course!
2. Atmosphere of unbelief.
 - a) Jairus' servants show up and *"While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?""* (Mark 5:35, ESV) Atmosphere of Unbelief.
 - b) What does Jesus say to the man? (WORDS) *"But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."* (Mark 5:36, ESV) Atmosphere of faith! Atmosphere of faith or unbelief is determined by words and what you allow to talk to you.
 - c) Jesus permitted no one to follow Him. Atmosphere of faith!
3. Gets to Jairus' house...Unbelief...

- a) Professional criers.
- b) Laughing at Jesus
- c) Jesus puts out the doubters; the folks of unbelief. He ejected them! Cast them out! Gr. ekballo - drive out. You will have to do that to maintain an atmosphere of faith. Cast out the words, and thoughts of unbelief.

B. Mark 9:14-24

1. Why does the demon manifest? To create an atmosphere of unbelief!
2. To many times we are moved by what we see and not be the good treasure stored in our heart.
3. The father takes the bait and says to Jesus, "IF you can help please do." "IF!" Atmosphere of unbelief. Jesus response, "If I can do anything?" Of course I can do anything!"
4. Father's response: "Lord I believe, help my UNBELIEF!" Get me out of this atmosphere of unbelief!!!

C. The warning:

1. *"Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God."* (Hebrews 3:12, ESV)
2. Unbelief causes us to harden our hearts and move away from God. Unbelief is not expecting God to do anything.
3. *"And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief."* (Hebrews 3:17-19, ESV). Amplified. *"So we see that they were not able to enter [into His rest], because of their unwillingness to adhere to and trust in and rely on God [unbelief had shut them out]."* (Hebrews 3:19, AMP)

III. The Atmosphere of Faith

A. Mark 2:1-11. Faith of Friends. Jesus saw their faith.

1. Jesus says to their faith, "*Your sins are forgiven!*"
2. James said, "*Faith without works is dead.*" But the Pharisees are the ones bringing the unbelief because of their religion and traditions.

B. Acts 14:8-10

1. Paul is preaching the Word. (Faith comes by hearing the Word)
2. Paul perceives the man has faith. Atmosphere of faith is building! He walks!

C. Mt 9:27-31

1. Two blind men.
2. They believe that Jesus can heal them.
3. His fame spreads - the atmosphere of faith spreads!

D. Building the Atmosphere of Faith

1. *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* (Romans 10:17, ESV)
2. Surround yourself with faith filled people.
3. Listen to faith filled worship.
4. Devour the Word!
5. Memorize the Word and speak it over your life.

Conclusion:

- Smith Wigglesworth said:
 - The whole atmosphere was charged with unbelief.
 - There was not a particle of faith in anything he uttered.
- How much faith are you operating in? Is unbelief stealing from you and from others?
- A good study might be to look up the word 'unbelief' and think on those scriptures