

Introduction:

- “The three events—birth, death, and resurrection...gave just enough reason to believe for those who, like the disciples, chose faith, and just enough reason not to believe for those who, like the Roman guards, chose doubt.” APPLICATION: Equally great minds can look at the same evidence and come to exactly the opposite conclusions on issues of faith. As important as the evidence might be, the willingness to believe is just as important. In the end, it seems to be the determining factor. Our job is to help people believe. To help them at least be willing to believe.

I. Our Job Is To Build Faith

- A. William Branham a healing evangelist of the early 1900s gives testimony that he was visited by an angel. That angel told him: *"If you can get the people to believe you, nothing shall stand before your prayer, not even cancer."* I believe that is the job of every believer. It is not just common to William Branham.
- B. How do we build faith?
 1. We build faith with kindness and mercy.
 - a) People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.
 - b) Notice that Ps 23 Goodness and mercy followed David and if followed Jesus.
 - c) Mother Teresa with compassion touched multitudes with her faith. And led many into the Catholic faith.
 - d) Jesus was moved with compassion. (Mt 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 18:27.)
 2. We build faith with testimonies.
 - a) Hearing other people testify has potential to build faith in others. I.e. It sure had the blind people of Jesus' day crying out to him when he was passing by.
 - b) Mt 9:27 two blind men, 11:5 John's disciple inquire if Jesus is the one.; Lk 18:35 two other blind men at Jericho.
 - c) Jerusalem Council. *"Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles."* (Acts 15:12, NKJV) This was the testimony of Paul and Barnabas.
 3. We build faith with the Word of God.
 - a) "So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ." (Romans 10:17, NLT)
 - b) We must be encouraging with the Word. You can't force people to hear!
 4. We build faith with encouragement. You can encourage faith with:
 - a) your presence
 - b) your actions
 - c) your words
 - d) your emotions/compassion

II. Our Job Is To Recognize and Release Faith

- A. The Gift of Faith released through us

1. *“But Peter said, ‘I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!’”* (Acts 3:6, NLT)
 - a) Peter acted on the passion of his experience.
 - (1) Just filled with Holy Spirit along with 119 others. There is power in numbers that share in the zeal of the Lord! If one can put a thousand to flight then 2 can put 10 thousand.
 - (2) Just saw 3,000 come into the Kingdom.
 2. Believe because of the miracles.
 - a) *“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”* (John 14:11, NKJV)
 - b) Jesus also was presenting to John the Baptist the same message: look at the works and decide...I am He.
 3. Philip in Samaria:
 - a) *“And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.”* (Acts 8:6, NKJV)
 4. Miracles arrest the attention of many. *“Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.”* (Acts 15:12, NKJV) This was the testimony of Paul and Barnabas.
- B. Recognizing faith in others and taking them to the next step.
1. *“While they were at Lystra, Paul and Barnabas came upon a man with crippled feet. He had been that way from birth, so he had never walked. He was sitting and listening as Paul preached. Looking straight at him, Paul realized he had faith to be healed.”* (Acts 14:8–9, NLT)
 2. When people believe sometimes they need someone to take them to the next step...literally in these two examples.