

The Dividing Line

Brandon Phillips / General Adult

The King and His Glory / Salvation; Jesus / Matthew 9:33–35

In Matthew 9:33-35, Jesus's ministry creates a clear dividing line between two distinct camps among humanity

Pre-sermon Comments

1 Thessalonians 1:1 LSB

¹ Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, **To** the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

Galatians 1:3 LSB

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Galatians 1:6 LSB

⁶ I marvel that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel,

1 Corinthians 1:3 LSB

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8–9 LSB

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not of works, so that no one may boast.

Galatians 5:22–23 LSB

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Introduction to our Text

Unbelief isn't a lack of evidence—it's the refusal to yield to the lordship of Christ. ~ G Campbell Morgan

Unbelief is not failure in intellectual apprehension. It is disobedience in the presence of the clear commands of God. — *G. Campbell Morgan*

“Faith is a living and unshakeable confidence, a belief in the grace of God so assured that a man would die a thousand deaths for its sake.” — *Martin Luther*

Review

True Faith Is Accompanied by Real World Complications ([Matthew 9:27](#))

Matthew 9:27 LSB

²⁷ And as Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

True Faith Is Revealed by Your Confidence in Christ ([Matthew 9:28](#))

Matthew 9:27–28 LSB

²⁷ And as Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” ²⁸ And when He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

True Faith Will Result in Your Conversion ([Matthew 9:29-30](#))

Matthew 9:29–30 LSB

²⁹ Then He touched their eyes, saying, “It shall be done to you according to your faith.” ³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows *about this!*”

True Faith Will Be Reflected in Your Conduct ([Matthew 9:30-31](#))

Matthew 9:30–33 LSB

³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See that no one knows *about this!*” ³¹ But they went out and spread the news about Him throughout all that land. ³² Now as they were going out, behold, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him. ³³ And after the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”

“Belief is all that is necessary to become a Christian, but it must be a belief that changes the life.” — *R. Kent Hughes*

Sermon Text

Matthew 9:32–35 LSB

³² Now as they were going out, behold, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him. ³³ And after the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.” ³⁴ But the Pharisees were saying, “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.” ³⁵ And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 9:33-35](#), Jesus’s ministry creates a clear dividing line between two distinct camps among humanity. Either you:

- Believe in Jesus ([Matthew 9:33](#))
- Disbelieve in Jesus ([Matthew 9:34-35](#))

Discussion Questions

Paul consistently greets believers with “Grace to you and peace.” What does this reveal about his priorities for the church?

Why is peace impossible apart from grace ([Ephesians 2:8–9](#))?

How does peace with God differ from the temporary “peace” the world offers?

In what ways have you experienced God’s peace even amid life’s conflicts or trials?

Why do you think Paul offered grace and peace even when addressing sin and correction ([Galatians 1](#), [1 Corinthians 1](#))?

Pastor Brandon said, “Grace is the foundation; peace is the fruit.” What does that mean practically for your walk with Christ?

What does it mean that miracles both “reveal divine power and expose the heart’s condition”?

How do you see the same evidence of God’s work producing faith in some and rejection in others?

How can our response to Christ’s grace reveal the true condition of our hearts?

What does this passage teach us about the nature of unbelief—why it is more of a moral issue than an intellectual one?

How does Augustine’s struggle between conviction and desire mirror the spiritual battle many face today?

Why did Augustine say his problem wasn’t a lack of evidence but a love of sin? How does this relate to people’s excuses for unbelief today?

What are some ways we, as believers, might say “only not yet” to God’s commands?

How does God sometimes use conviction, frustration, or restlessness to draw a person to repentance?

What “real world complications” test your faith right now, and how are you responding to them?

How can believers cultivate confidence in Christ even when their prayers seem unanswered?

The healed men could not contain their excitement about Jesus. How can we show that same joy and boldness in sharing our faith?

Why do you think faith that leads to salvation must also be reflected in conduct? What changes should true faith always produce?

Where do you see the “dividing line” of belief and unbelief drawn in your own circles—family, workplace, or culture?

How can we as a group pray for one another to grow in genuine faith that acts, speaks, and trusts like these blind men?

What does it look like to live in daily awareness of God’s grace and peace?

Who in your life needs to see that kind of grace and peace through you this week?

How does this passage challenge your understanding of what it means to truly believe in Jesus?

Either You Believe in Jesus

Matthew 9:33 LSB

³³ And after the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”

Old Testament Miracles

Creation

Genesis 1:1 LSB

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The Flood

Genesis 6:7-8 LSB

⁷ And Yahweh said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I regret that I have made them.” ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yahweh.

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:7-9 LSB

⁷ “Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s language.” ⁸ So Yahweh scattered them from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there Yahweh confused the language of the whole earth; and from there Yahweh scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

The Patriarchs

Genesis 19:24-25 LSB

²⁴ And Yahweh rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from Yahweh out of heaven, ²⁵ and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

Genesis 21:1-2 LSB

¹ Now Yahweh visited Sarah as He had said, and Yahweh did for Sarah as He had promised. ² So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him.

Genesis 22:10-13 LSB

¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of Yahweh called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² And He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the boy, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only one, from Me.” ¹³ Then Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, *there was* a ram after *it had been* caught in the thicket by its horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.

Moses

Joshua

Joshua 3:15–16 LSB

¹⁵ and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest), ¹⁶ the waters which were flowing down from above stood *and* rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. So the people crossed opposite Jericho.

Joshua 6:20 LSB

²⁰ So the people shouted, and *the priests* blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down beneath itself, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city.

Joshua 10:12–13 LSB

¹² Then Joshua spoke to Yahweh in the day when Yahweh gave over the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, “O sun, stand still at Gibeon, And O moon in the valley of Aijalon.” ¹³ So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun stood in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go *down* for about a whole day.

Judges 14:19 LSB

¹⁹ Then the Spirit of Yahweh came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty of them and took their spoil and gave the changes *of clothes* to those who told the riddle. And his anger burned, and he went up to his father's house.

Judges 6:36–38 LSB

³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, “If You will save Israel by my hand, as You have spoken, ³⁷ behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have spoken.” ³⁸ And it was so. Indeed he arose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece. And he drained the dew from the fleece, a bowl full of water.

Judges 7:7 LSB

⁷ And Yahweh said to Gideon, “I will save you with the 300 men who lapped and will give the Midianites into your hands; so let all the *other* people go, each man to his place.”

The Times of the Kings

1 Kings 17:7 LSB

⁷ Now it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

1 Kings 18:1 LSB

¹ Now it happened *after* many days that the word of Yahweh came to Elijah in the third year, saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the face of the earth.”

1 Kings 17:14 LSB

¹⁴ “For thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, ‘The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that Yahweh sends rain on the face of the earth.’”

1 Kings 17:20–22 LSB

²⁰ Then he called to Yahweh and said, “O Yahweh my God, have You also brought calamity to the widow with whom I am sojourning, by causing her son to die?” ²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to Yahweh and said, “O Yahweh my God, I pray You, let this child’s life return to him.” ²² And Yahweh heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he became alive.

1 Kings 18:38 LSB

³⁸ Then the fire of Yahweh fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

2 Kings 1:12 LSB

¹² And Elijah answered and spoke to them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

2 Kings 2:21–22 LSB

²¹ And he went out to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says Yahweh, ‘I have purified these waters; there shall not be from there death or barrenness any longer.’” ²² So the waters have been purified to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.

Exilic and Post-Exilic Periods

Daniel 3:17 LSB

¹⁷ “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to save us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will save us out of your hand, O king.

Daniel 6:20–22 LSB

²⁰ When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king answered and said to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to save you from the lions?” ²¹ Then Daniel spoke to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² “My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have done no harm.”

Daniel 4:33–34 LSB

³³ “Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was accomplished; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ *feathers* and his nails like birds’ *claws*. ³⁴ “But at the end of *those* days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes toward heaven, and my knowledge returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *endures* from generation to generation.

Jonah 1:17 LSB

¹⁷ And Yahweh appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Jesus in the NT

Matthew 9:33 LSB

³³ And after the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”

Matthew 9:35 LSB

³⁵ And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Matthew 4:23 LSB

²³ And Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

Great throngs of people praised Jesus and walked many miles... but they admired Him only from a distance. They were always astonished and sometimes afraid, but never committed. — *John MacArthur*

Discussion Questions

What does [Matthew 9:33](#) reveal about Jesus' power over both the physical and spiritual realms?

Why were the crowds “amazed” at Jesus' miracle? What does their reaction tell us about their understanding of who Jesus is?

How does this miracle demonstrate the fulfillment and surpassing of Old Testament miracles?

Pastor Brandon walked through several Old Testament miracles—from creation to the prophets.

- What do these miracles teach us about God's character and His purposes in intervening in human history?
- How does Jesus' miracle ministry connect to or differ from those of Moses, Elijah, and Elisha?

In light of the OT miracles, why is it significant that the crowd said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel”? What does this statement imply about Jesus' identity?

According to the sermon, what are some reasons God performs miracles in Scripture (e.g., validation, revelation, judgment, deliverance)?

How do Jesus' miracles validate His message about the “gospel of the kingdom” ([Matthew 9:35](#))?

What dangers arise when people become focused on miracles rather than on the Messiah who performs them?

Pastor Brandon said, “Many saw these miracles and were amazed, yet they didn't truly believe in Jesus.”

- Why do you think amazement doesn't always lead to faith?

- Can you think of ways people today admire Jesus' works but still reject His lordship?

How does this passage prepare us for the contrast in [Matthew 9:34](#), where the Pharisees accuse Jesus of working by Satan's power?

When you reflect on Jesus' miracles, what most strengthens your faith in Him today?

In what ways might we be tempted to seek signs from God instead of resting in His revealed Word?

How can we help others move from curiosity about Jesus to true belief in Him?

What might your own life say about whether you are merely amazed by Jesus or truly submitted to Him as Lord?

Or You Disbelieve in Jesus

Matthew 9:34 LSB

³⁴ But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

The Pharisees' Rejection

Acts 2:22–24 LSB

²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— ²³ this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put Him to death. ²⁴ "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Matthew 9:10–11 LSB

¹⁰ Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining *at the table* in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to His disciples, “Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?”

Matthew 11:18–19 LSB

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ ¹⁹ “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

The Pharisees’ Accusation

Matthew 9:34 LSB

³⁴ But the Pharisees were saying, “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.”

Matthew 12:24–26 LSB

²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, “This man does not cast out demons except by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.” ²⁵ And knowing their thoughts He said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ “And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?

Matthew 23:27–28 LSB

²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ “In this way, you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Conclusion:

Christianity is nonsense. It can’t be believed by a thinking person. ~
Christopher Hitchens

“The problem of unbelief is the same today as it was in the first century. Unbelief is not the consequence of modern knowledge but a moral condition of the heart.” — *D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

Unbelief is not a misfortune to be pitied; it is a sin to be deplored. — *John Stott*

Unbelief will destroy the best of us. Faith will save the worst of us. — *Charles Spurgeon*

Discussion Questions

Read [Matthew 9:33–34](#). What contrast do you see between the crowds’ reaction and the Pharisees’ response to Jesus’ miracle?

What does the Pharisees’ accusation (“He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons”) reveal about their hearts?

How does [Matthew 9:34](#) connect with other passages where the Pharisees opposed Jesus (e.g., [Matthew 9:10–11](#); [12:24–26](#); [23:27–28](#))?

How does Peter’s statement in [Acts 2:22–24](#) expose both human guilt and divine sovereignty in Christ’s crucifixion?

Why do you think the Pharisees refused to believe in Jesus even when confronted with undeniable miracles?

In what ways does self-righteousness blind people to the truth of Christ?

How does attributing Jesus’ work to Satan represent a deeper spiritual problem than mere unbelief?

Jesus said a “house divided cannot stand” ([Matthew 12:25](#)). What principle was He teaching, and how does it expose the Pharisees’ illogical accusation?

How does modern society reject Jesus in ways similar to the Pharisees, even if using different language?

Why do you think intellectual pride and “sophisticated unbelief” are so persuasive in our culture today?

When have you been tempted to cling to your own sense of goodness rather than humbly depend on Christ’s grace?

Have you ever resisted a truth from Scripture because it threatened your comfort or challenged your pride?

In what areas of your life is Christ calling you to surrender more fully to His authority?

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

[*Gen 1:1*](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[*Psalms 24:1*](#)—*The earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

Is Perfectly Holy

[*1 John 1:5*](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[*Matt 5:48*](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[*James 2:10*](#)—*for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

Man

Has broken God’s law

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—*there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[Rom. 6:23](#)—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—*He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—*For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form*

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—*But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—*And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—*Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

[Luke 9:23](#)—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

Brandon.Phillips@gracegainesville.org

Keith.Kemp@gracegainesville.org

Quotes

We can prove our faith by our committal to it, and in no other way. Any belief that does not command the one who holds it is not a real belief; it is a pseudo belief only. And it might shock some of us profoundly if we were brought suddenly face to face with our beliefs and forced to test them in the fires of practical living. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

If your heart is troubled, you are not living up to your belief. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)**

All unbelief is the belief of a lie. ~ **Horatius Bonar (Scottish Minister and Hymn Writer)**

Nothing binds me to my Lord like a strong belief in his changeless love. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The Scriptures alone are the foundation of our beliefs as Christians. I stand on the Word of God as recorded in the Bible. ~ **Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation)**

Deity indwelling men! That, I say, is Christianity, and no man has experienced rightly the power of Christian belief until he has known this for himself as a living reality. Everything else is preliminary to this. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Faith is a living and unshakeable confidence, a belief in the grace of God so assured that a man would die a thousand deaths for its sake. ~ **Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation)**

What is faith? It is made up of three things—knowledge, belief, and trust. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

A belief is what you hold; a conviction is what holds you. ~ **Jerry Bridges**

Belief and love are not the conditions of the indwelling, however, but the tests and evidences of it. ~ **John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

The human heart is heretical by nature. Popular religious beliefs should be checked carefully against the Word of God, for they are almost certain to be wrong. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Faith is not belief without evidence. It is belief on the very best of evidence, the word of Him who cannot lie. Faith is so rational that it asks no other evidence than this all-sufficient evidence. To ask other evidence than the word of Him “who cannot lie” is not “rationalism,” but consummate irrationalism. ~ **R. A. Torrey**

The most serious and fatal self-delusion of the wicked is their belief that God will not judge them. ~ **R. C. Sproul**

Too many people have an intellectual belief in Christ, but not a heart belief. ~ **Warren W. Wiersbe**

Christian doctrine is simply statements of the most fundamental beliefs the Christian has, beliefs about the nature of God, about his action, about us who are his creatures, and about what he has done to bring us into relationship with himself. ~ **Millard J. Erickson**

Belief in God's Word and belief in Jesus Christ are inseparable. To believe in one is to believe in the other; and to disbelieve one is to disbelieve the other. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Thus heart and mouth, inward belief and outward confession, belong essentially together. ~ **John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

They are the agents of belief, but Christ is the object of belief. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

I think the New Testament does teach very clearly that our knowledge always follows our belief. It is like a horse drawing a carriage; they are bound together, and they are never separated, but the horse is always in front, and the carriage is being drawn by him. Belief, then knowledge—that is the position. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Take care that thy *faith* is of the right kind—that it is not a mere belief of doctrine, but a simple faith, depending on Christ, and on Christ alone. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Belief is all that is necessary to become a Christian, but it must be a belief that changes the life. ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

Unbelief ... is always proud. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Unbelief makes us rebels and deserters. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Blindness is the cause of unbelief, whoever the unbeliever may be. ~ **John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

Unbelief about the existence and personality of Satan has often proved the first step to unbelief about God. ~ **J. C. Ryle**

Unbelief is not just a mental attitude. It is a moral thing. Unbelief is always sinful because it always presupposes an immoral condition of the heart before it can exist.⁵ ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The ultimate cause of all spiritual depression is unbelief. For if it were not for unbelief even the devil could do nothing. It is because we listen to the devil instead of listening to God that we go down before him and fall before his attacks. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

None but the Lord himself can afford us any help from the awful workings of unbelief, doubtings, carnal fears, murmurings. Thank God one day we will be done forever with unbelief. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

The greatest enemy to answered prayer is unbelief. ~ **Warren W. Wiersbe**

Unbelief is not simply an infirmity of fallen human nature, it is a heinous crime. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

Faith does the same against the devil as unbelief does against God. ~ **John Bunyan**

The root of anxiety is unbelief. ~ **D. A. Carson**

Surely the answer is sin, and we know that sin stems from unbelief—in failing to hope in God during our earthly sojourn. God’s power, to be effective at all, must guard us from sin and unbelief. ~ **Thomas Schreiner**

Let us crush the eggs of our woes while they lie in the nest of our unbelief. Our sorrows are mostly manufactured at home, beaten out upon the anvil of unbelief with the hammer of our foreboding. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Unbelief will destroy the best of us. Faith will save the worst of us. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Human unbelief cannot alter the character of God. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Unbelief is at the bottom of what sinners do ignorantly. ~ **Matthew Henry (Nonconformist Biblical Exegete)**

The angels never doubt Him, nor the devils either; we alone, out of all the beings that God has fashioned, dishonor Him by unbelief, and tarnish His honor by mistrust. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

As no man can give himself faith, neither can he take away his unbelief. ~ **Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation)**

The miserable Christian is guilty of unbelief. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

The problem of unbelief is the same today as it was in the first century, and as it was before that. Unbelief has been a universal problem ever since the Fall. Unbelief is not the consequence of modern knowledge, but neither is it based upon reason, intelligence and understanding. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Man lost life by unbelief—by not believing God’s word; and we get life back again by believing—by taking God at His word. ~ **Dwight Lyman Moody (Evangelist)**

Unbelief is terribly positive and active, a state and condition of the soul, with a very definite mentality: and the Bible indeed does not hesitate to put it like this: ‘Unbelief is one of the manifestations of sin; it is one of the symptoms of that fell and foul disease.’ ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Unbelief is the root of apostasy. ~ **Thomas Watson**

Every man will have to decide for himself whether or not he can afford the terrible luxury of unbelief. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Unbelief is not a misfortune to be pitied; it is a sin to be deplored. ~ **John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

We can never be too much on our guard against unbelief. It is the oldest sin in the world. ~ **J. C. Ryle**

There is nothing new about unbelief. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Unbelief, or distrust of God, is a sin that is its own punishment. ~ **Matthew Henry (Nonconformist Biblical Exegete)**

Many a dumb Christian, I am afraid, has had his mouth sealed through unbelief. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Our own unbelief is the only impediment which prevents God from satisfying us largely and bountifully with all good things. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Unbelief is nothing but sheer nonsense. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Atheism denies God's existence—unbelief denies his goodness, and since goodness is essential to God, these doubts do, in reality, stab at his very being. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Unbelief was the first sin, and pride was the first-born of it. ~ **Stephen Charnock (English Puritan Theologian)**

Man in unbelief is inexcusable. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Until a man receives faith, he may think that he has it—but when he has real faith in Jesus Christ, then he shudders as he thinks how long he has lived in unbelief—and realizes how much of unbelief is still mixed with his belief. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Unbelief is far, far more than entertaining an erroneous conception of God's way of salvation: it is a species of hatred against him. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

In an age of abounding unbelief and scepticism, we shall find that the resurrection of Christ will bear any weight that we can lay upon it. ~ **J. C. Ryle**

There are two things that God always hears. Mark this! The first is the voice of faith, and the second is the voice of unbelief. As much as God loves faith, so much he loathes unbelief. When we are strong in faith, the Lord can do anything with us and for us, and he can make us equal to all difficulties. But when we give way to unbelief, Christ himself can do nothing with us. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

We often talk of unbelief as if it were an affliction to be pitied instead of a crime to be condemned. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Since no man is excluded from calling upon God the gate of salvation is set open to all. There is nothing else to hinder us from entering, but our own unbelief. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

Now that is what I say is the principle of separation. You cannot possibly remain in an apostate church. You must separate yourself from unbelief and from explicit denials of the gospel. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Unbelief is not failure in intellectual apprehension. It is disobedience in the presence of the clear commands of God. ~ **George Campbell Morgan (British Preacher)**

However, the evidence about Jesus is compelling, so withholding belief in Him is to commit an immoral act. Unbelief is judged by Jesus not as an intellectual error but as a hostile act of prejudice against God Himself. This sort of unbelief is destructive to the church and to the people of God. ~ **R. C. Sproul**

Since no man is excluded from calling upon God, the gate of salvation is set open unto all men; neither is there any other thing that keeps us back from entering in, save only our own unbelief. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**

I have noticed that whenever a person gives up his belief in the Word of God because it requires that he should believe a good deal, his unbelief requires him to believe a great deal more. If there be any difficulties in the faith of

Christ, they are not one-tenth as great as the absurdities in any system of unbelief which seeks to take its place. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The difficulties of unbelief are ten times greater than the difficulties of faith. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

It is unbelief that prevents our minds from soaring into the celestial city, and walking by faith with God across the golden streets. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

As no one can give himself faith, neither can he take away his unbelief. ~ **Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation); Euan K. Cameron**

Unbelief is the foul medley of all sins, the root and receptacle of sin. ~ **Thomas Watson**

Great throngs of people praised Jesus and walked many miles along hot, dusty roads to see Him perform His amazing works; but they admired Him only from a distance. They did not lastingly identify with Him or submit to Him. They were always astonished and sometimes afraid, but never committed. They were mere onlookers, willing to cheer but not willing to participate. They came to Jesus out of curiosity and to be entertained. ~ John MacArthur

Because their fascination with Jesus' miracles was superficial and involved no submission to Him as Lord and Savior, the marveling multitude eventually screamed for His blood in death ~ John MacArthur

When an unbeliever is determined not to believe, no fact or reason, no matter how obvious and convincing, can enlighten him. The person who is sold out to darkness refuses to recognize the light, even when it is blindingly clear. And the person who *praises* Jesus but rejects Him or *ignores* and rejects Him is just as damned as the person who *denounces* and rejects Him. Any response to Jesus but the response of faith amounts to rejection and results in damnation. ~ John MacArthur

When our Lord came down to earth, He drew heaven with Him. The signs which accompanied His ministry were but the trailing clouds of glory which He brought from heaven, which is His home. ~ B. B. Warfield