



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#110)

Defective faith: The fact foundation rejected.

1

## DEFECTIVE FAITH

⇒ Is this my FAITH?

- Genuine fact-based living FAITH is a saving faith.
- But what if my faith is...

Defective in its FACT foundation?	Defective in its LIVING expression?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>False (= deception)</li> <li>Rejected (= unbelief)</li> <li>Missing (= ignorance)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absent (= not there)</li> <li>Small (= "little faith")</li> <li>Wavering (= doubt)</li> </ul>

TODAY

2

### REJECTING THE FACT FOUNDATION.

This has to do with not accepting the facts.


THIS CAN VARY IN ITS EXPRESSION:

- A deliberate rejection of the truth.**  
This can include hostile confrontation. People in this category rarely become saved (though, like the apostle Paul, some do).
- A more passive "non-acceptance" of the truth.**  
This would include "unbelievers" who are not confrontational. There is more hope for these people – that they may repent and be saved.
- Momentary unbelief among God's people.**  
(A few verses that we will mention later.)

3

ALL OF THESE VERSES INVOLVE NOT ACCEPTING THE FAITH FACTS.

In Scripture, this concept\* always has a negative connotation.



Here is how Scripture describes such people...

\* (Our focus is on a specific New Testament Greek word group that combines "not" and "believe" into one word – as in "unbelief." Translations often use the word "unbelief"; but may also use "lack of faith," "faithless," and similar terms.)

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★ Unsaved people are in a terrible situation. ★

✓ SCRIPTURE DESCRIBES THESE UNBELIEVERS AS:

- Blind.  
The god of this age [= Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.  
2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)
- Corrupt, impure.  
But to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their minds and consciences are corrupted.  
Titus 1:15 (NET)
- Other concepts associated with this unbelief include:  
Corrupt (Titus 1:15); stubborn/perverse (Luke 9:41); ignorance (1 Timothy 1:13); stubborn/hard-hearted (Mark 16:14); stumbling & disobedient (1 Peter 2:7-8), etc.

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✓ THEIR UNBELIEF HAS DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES.

- In Jesus' day, it hindered his ability to do miracles. Their unbelief greatly distressed him.  
And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.  
Matthew 13:58 (NASB)
- Jesus said, "You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you and put up with you?"  
Luke 9:41a (NLT)
- Those who reject the Good News will be condemned (contrasted with those who will be saved).  
But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.  
Mark 16:16b (NLT)

(Since the "faith" of Scripture is fact-based, a refusal to "believe" is the same as a refusal to "accept the facts.")

6

- "Unfaithfulness" results in severe punishment.  
 [The master] will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the **unfaithful**. ... [He] will be **severely punished**.  
 Luke 12:46b, 47b (NLT)
- Ultimately, they will be in the lake of fire (if they don't repent).  
 ... the **unbelieving** ... they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the **second death**.  
 Revelation 21:8b (NIV)

**Yet in spite of all this unbelief by people ... God remains faithful!**

If some did **not believe**, does their **unbelief** nullify the **faithfulness** of God? Absolutely not!  
 Romans 3:3-4a (NET)

If we are **faithless**, He remains **faithful**; for He cannot deny Himself.  
 2 Timothy 2:13 (NASB)

★ **Some examples to learn from.** ★

① ⇒ **The continuing unbelief of the Jewish nation.**

[This describes the present situation. According to prophecy, they will someday repent, have changed hearts, and turn back to God/Jesus.]

✓ **THIS APPLIES TO THE JEWISH NATION, NOT TO INDIVIDUAL JEWS.**

- To this day, some Jews (a "remnant" – Romans 9:27; 11:5) are followers of Jesus. But here is what typically happens:  
 Some of them were convinced by what [Paul] said, but others continued to **disbelieve**.  
 Acts 28:24 (GW)
- Some make the "transition" from unbelief to belief.  
 The father instantly cried out, "**I do believe**, but help me overcome my **unbelief!**"  
 Mark 9:24 (NLT)

✓ **FOR MOST JEWS, JESUS WAS NOT THE MESSIAH THEY WANTED... SO THEY REJECTED HIM.**

... for the **unbelieving**,  
 The stone that the builders **rejected**—  
 this one has become the cornerstone,  
 and  
 A stone to stumble over,  
 and a rock to trip over.  
 ... because they **disobey** the word ...  
 1 Peter 2:7b-8 (CSB)

(In v. 6, Jesus is figuratively described as a precious stone.)

[= Psalm 118:22]  
 [= Isaiah 8:14]

- Result??** They could not enter the (eternal) rest that God offered them.  
 So we see that because of their **unbelief** they were not able to enter his rest.  
 Hebrews 3:19 (NLT)

✓ **WHEN COMPARED TO ABRAHAM (THEIR ANCESTOR)...**

- They are **not** like their ancestor Abraham, who had a continuing trust in God.  
 He **did not waver** in **unbelief** about the promise of God but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.  
 Romans 4:20 (NET)
- Result??** They became like branches broken off the "root" (= their saved ancestors, such as Abraham).  
 True enough; they were **broken off** because of **unbelief**, ...  
 Romans 11:20a (CSB)

Prophetically, there is still hope for the nation. **If** they are willing to repent, they will be re-attached to the "root."

... if they do not remain in **unbelief**, will **be grafted** in, ...  
 Romans 11:23b (CSB)

② ⇒ **The momentary unbelief of the apostles.**

**MOMENTARY IN TWO WAYS:**

✓ **A LIFE OF UNBELIEF THAT ENDED AT SALVATION.**

- Paul was perhaps the most striking example of this change:  
 But I was treated with mercy because I acted ignorantly in **unbelief**, and our Lord's grace was abundant, bringing faith and love in Christ Jesus.  
 Timothy 1:13b-14 (NET)

✓ **MOMENTARY, IN REGARD TO A SPECIFIC ISSUE.**

- Originally, they did not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. But it did not take long for them to be willing to admit the truth – **unlike the unbelieving world!**

**[THEIR MOMENTARY UNBELIEF IN THE RESURRECTION.]**

- They didn't believe the testimony of others.  
 (THE WOMEN'S TESTIMONY.) The apostles thought that the women's story didn't make any sense, and they **didn't believe** them.  
 Luke 24:11 (GW) (THIS INCLUDES BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.)

[Jesus] rebuked [the apostles] for their **lack of faith** and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.  
 Mark 16:14b (NIV)

- For a short while, they **didn't** even believe Jesus! (Perhaps referring only to the **physical** aspect of Jesus' resurrection.)  
 ... they still **did not believe** it because of joy and amazement, ...  
 Luke 24:41 (NIV)

(See John 20:27. Jesus confronts Thomas about this issue.)

**If we have moments of unbelief, follow their example and change!**

**★ HOW should we respond to unbelief? ★**

① ⇒ Make sure YOU are not one who disbelieves the truth!

✓ LEARN FROM THE EXAMPLES (PASSAGES WE ALREADY LOOKED AT).

- **Abraham's example:** He did not waver in unbelief.
- **The example of the man with the spirit-possessed child:** He admitted his weakness and prayed for strength to change.
- **The Jew's example:** Be like the believing Jews, and not like the unbelieving ones.
- **The apostle's example:** If you haven't yet done so, end your lifelong unbelief by being saved. From then on, be willing to accept the facts that will bring periods of momentary unbelief to an end.

✓ LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF UNBELIEVERS IN YOUR LIFE.

- Don't be like them.

Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and **unbelieving**, turning you away from the living God.  
Hebrews 3:12b (NLT)

- Don't make them your closest friends, associates, etc.

Do not be unequally yoked with **unbelievers**. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an **unbeliever**? What agreement has the temple of God with idols?  
2 Corinthians 6:14-16a (ESV)

This doesn't mean to always avoid them. When you interact with them, do it in such a way that their influence doesn't rub off on you.

② ⇒ Learn from Scripture the right way to interact with unbelievers.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

- **Demonstrate Christ's love**, as you interact with those of your own family!
  - ⇒ Don't go to unbelievers to resolve disputes within your "spiritual" family" – 1 Corinthians 6:1-6.
  - ⇒ Take care of your own physical family (if in need); otherwise, you are worse than an unbeliever – 1 Timothy 5:8.
- **Live at peace** with unbelievers. Examples of how to interact:
  - ⇒ When living with an unsaved spouse – 1 Corinthians 7:12-16.
  - ⇒ When invited to a meal with unbelievers (how to interact) – 1 Corinthians 10:27.
- **Communicate God's truth** in a way they can understand – 1 Corinthians 14:22-25 (especially v. 24-25).

**Your mission: PURSUE A "RENEWED MIND!"**

Watch for Scripture truth (and values) that you haven't yet accepted ("believed"); then make the transition from unbelieving to believing.

"I do believe, but help me overcome my **unbelief!**"  
Mark 9:24b (NLT)

Salvation begins when we accept as true (= "believe") the **GOOD NEWS**. There is no legitimate reason for not believing the fact nature of the resurrection!

Why should any of you consider it **incredible** that God raises the dead?  
Acts 26:8 (NIV)

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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