

Unbelief is a Showstopper

The American Heritage Dictionary defines showstopper as: *“a particularly arresting person or thing that brings a course of action to a halt.”* Is there anything in our hands that can stop the blessing of God in our life? Sadly the answer is a resounding Yes! Unbelief halts the Lord’s blessings. Unbelief prevents miracles and robs us of *“life and life more abundantly.”* Unbelief renders our warfare against the enemy of our souls (*“against the rulers, against the powers, against the worldly forces of this darkness, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” Eph. 6:12b*) powerless and useless. Unbelief limits *Yeshua’s* work: *“⁵⁸ And He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief” (Matt. 13:58)*. Unbelief brings a rebuke from *Yeshua* (Mark 16:14). Unbelief would have stopped Abraham from reaching the Father’s goals for him (Romans 4:20). Unbelief is **keeping our people from being grafted into their own Olive Tree** (Romans 11:20, 23). Unbelief causes us to **fall away from the living God** (Hebrews 3:12). Unbelief leads to apostasy. Unbelief keeps us from entering our Shabbat Rest and causes us to fall short of the mark (to miss the mark is to sin).

⁵⁴Coming into His hometown, He began to teach them in their synagogue so that they were amazed. “Where did this fellow get this wisdom and these mighty works?” they said. ⁵⁵“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t His mother called Miriam, and His brothers Jacob and Joseph and Simon and Judah? ⁵⁶And His sisters, aren’t they all with us? So where does He get all these things?” ⁵⁷And they took offense at Him. But Yeshua said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own house.” ⁵⁸And He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief” (Matthew 13:54-58)... “⁶But let him ask in faith, without any doubting—for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord— ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:6-8)

We have been given explicit instructions in Scripture concerning faith, which is the opposite of unbelief: *“⁶ Now without faith it is impossible to please God. For the one who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6)*. From the very beginning of Scripture the Almighty has sought a people who would live before Him by faith – without fear. He has always wanted His children to be at rest in body, soul, and spirit by *fully trusting* in His promises. He has always called upon His people to *place all their trust in Him* so He can do the *impossible for them*. What is this mountain that we are to say to *“Be thou removed and be cast into the sea?”* The mountain is **unbelief** – the lack of trust and confidence in our Heavenly Father. Scholars have given *“this mountain”* all kinds of names: the mountain of besetting sin, the mountain of poverty, the mountain of sickness, the mountain of fear, the mountain of discouragement and the mountain of disease. But even a cursory look at these names leads us to discern that all these things are birthed from unbelief – we do not trust God.

It is so sad to observe that in the times of *Yeshua’s* earthly ministry He was unable to perform miracles in His own community (Matt. 13:53-58, Mark 6:1-6). Yes Virginia, He was in His hometown synagogue. He could only do a few miracles in his home congregation. This is so unfortunate! In Gainesville, we are *Yeshua’s* home synagogue – the only synagogue of his own natural brothers and sisters who believe in Him. If there is unbelief in *Kol Simcha*, *Yeshua* cannot and will not do many mighty miracles. If that is the case, we may be relegated to the *lessened* ministry of the people who talk about the healing by the laying of hands with a *few* people experiencing the Almighty’s Power – just another run-of-the-mill congregation. Unbelief is always the mountain that stops the fullness of *Yeshua’s* revelation and His blessings. But He came to *“give life, and life more abundantly.”* If we believe this why are we so powerless?

Unbelief is a Serious Sin with Grievous & Serious Consequences

At the beginning of the *B’rit Chadasha*, we have an example of how serious unbelief is to our Lord. At the beginning of Luke we observe how after the angel *Gabriel* announces to Zechariah that he will have a son and that he will name his son *Yochanan*. But he responds: *“How can this be? My wife and I are stricken in years.”* Does the Almighty **excuse** a top level *Cohen* from his unbelief? Instead the angel is directed to tell him that he will be *“dumb, and not able to speak until the day that these things shall be performed because you did not believe my words.”*

This is a serious consequence, don't you think? His own miracle son is to herald the coming of the Messiah (the Elijah that is to come as prophesied in Malachi 4:5-6. But as for Zechariah, he does not get to celebrate the good news for the duration (nine months) of his wife's pregnancy! Our Lord *Yeshua* has fully purchased miracles and healings for us to experience His abundant life, but our unbelief lets us remain in misery and continue our dismal and powerless existence. Where are the can-do people who: *"Amen, amen I tell you, he who puts his trust in Me, the works that I do he will do; and greater than these he will do, because I am going to the Father"* (John 14:12). *"¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God"* (Romans 8:19). I guess the world is still waiting for us. Unbelief always brings total disorder and chaos.

Be Thou Removed

Who is responsible to move this mountain of unbelief from before us? We are! We are to have faith and trust, even as that of a mustard seed (the tiniest of seeds) and we are to *"speak (not think, but speak aloud)"* (like Moshe was to speak to the rock) and command the mountain of unbelief to *"Be taken up and cast into the sea."* The fact is that *Yeshua* has told us that His promise is that whatever we desire, when we pray, we are to believe and trust that we will receive them, and we will have them. Further: *"⁶ Do not be anxious about anything—but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the shalom of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Messiah Yeshua"* (Phil. 4:6). Do you believe this? Many of us believers operate by faith for years, but when the "crisis of crises" comes, we succumb to unbelief. *Yeshua, how do I cast this mountain of unbelief from my heart?* The answer is found at Gethsemane, the place where all mountains obey His Word. The modern posture of the Body of Messiah is to say, *"Ours is not a generation of tears. We have been called to celebrate."* But at the most despairing time in *Yeshua's* life, He gives us THE example *"Thy Will and not My Will be done."* He gets up from pleading, sweating blood, and agony and says, in essence, *"Father, I have prayed, I have wept, I have fasted, and I have done everything in My power. But now, Father, I turn my soul to you, in total trust and declare Your Will be done!"* *Yeshua* spoke to the mountain, and it was cast into the deepest parts of the sea. Shouldn't we do the same? *"Lord, I believe! Help thou my unbelief"* (Mark 9:24). *Shabbat Shalom!*

♪If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, this is what sayeth the Lord. You will thus say unto this mountain, 'Be thou removed (x2)' (x2). This mountain shall be removed (x3)" ♪ (Matt. 17:20; Mk. 11:23)

♪Si tuvieras fe como un grano de mostaza, ese nos dice el Señor. (x2) Yo le diría a esa montaña muévete, muévete.(x2) Esa montaña se moverá, se moverá, y se moverá. ♪