



The Turning Point

EXPERIENCING GOD

Henry and Richard Blackaby

**THE CRISIS
OF BELIEF**

Session 7

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THE TURNING POINT

When God invites us to join Him in His work, we can be sure we will be introduced to a **God-sized assignment**.

- A crisis of belief is not something to be ashamed of as long as it is met with a desire to seek Him
- And the proper response is *'If God doesn't help me then I will fail'*

This is the “Crisis of Belief” when one must decide whether to believe God for what He wants to do through them.

What helps us at this point is realizing five realities:

- 1) **The assignment is God's work**
- 2) **The help is based on our God-Relationship**
- 3) **It is God Who has given the invitation to join Him**
- 4) **He will clearly give us direction and power**
- 5) **God's invitation to work with Him will always lead to “crisis of belief.”**



THE TURNING POINT

God had already told Israel many times what *Canaan was like, what nations were there, and how He would defeat their enemies* and give them their promised inheritance; so what need was there for men to go in and spy out the land?

How **Sad when human nature** prefers to walk by sight, not by faith in the One Who had given them clear directions.

The spies searched the land and even brought back some of the wonderful fruit, but they also brought back an evil report and this **discouraged the hearts of the people.**

- Only Moses, Joshua and Caleb believed God would keep His promise



THE TURNING POINT

When the twelve spies returned from Canaan to report to Moses, their recommendations prompted a Crisis of Belief of national proportions.

- **Num. 13:30-31** Then Caleb quieted the people in the presence of Moses and said, “We must go up and take possession of the land because we can certainly conquer it!” But the men who had gone up with him responded, “We can’t go up against the people **because they are stronger than we are!**”

Now, when we talk about the ten spies, we should never forget that that the sending of the spies was the desire of the people, not the commandment of the Lord.

- **Deut. 1:20-23** showed them their hearts



THE TURNING POINT

The word **CRISIS** comes from a Greek word meaning **DECISION OR JUDGMENT**

A crisis is a dangerous and unsettled time.

- Dangerous because of liability and exposure to harm
- Unsettled because choices must be made.

The truth is, there are **spiritual struggles** that accompany our walk with God.

In his book *Experiencing the Spirit, The Power of Pentecost Every Day*, Henry Blackaby says:

“Will God ever ask you to do something you are not able to do? The answer is yes—all the time! It must be that way, for God’s glory and kingdom. **If we function according to our ability alone, we get the glory**; if we function according to the power of the Spirit within us, God gets the glory. He wants to reveal Himself to a watching world.”



THE TURNING POINT

The ten unbelieving spies illustrate many Christians today: they have **“spied out”** their inheritance in Christ and have even tasted some of the fruits of His blessing; but their unbelief keeps them from entering in by faith.

Belief Crisis time can be both inspiring and challenging, as it forces us to ask some hard questions about my own faith and ministry?

We must decide are we living displays of God’s almighty power to do the impossible or are we simply playing it safe by only doing the things that we know I have the resources and ability to do.

“Crisis of Belief” just may be a series of **proverbial forks along the road of life** – that challenge and encourage us to trust in God



GOD SPEAKS TODAY



GOD

Starts
Relationship

Sends
Invitation

God
Speaks

Man Walks
With God



**OBEYING
GOD'S
WORD**



**CRISIS OF
BELIEF**

- NO WAY
- MY WAY
- GOD'S WAY



OBSERVATIONS FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ The most critical issues in experiencing God is the Crisis of Belief and making the necessary adjustments.
- ❑ When one becomes a Christian their life becomes radically oriented to God
- ❑ Whenever God encounters us as a Christian, what we do next reveals what we believe about God regardless to what we keep saying.
 - Being God oriented, we hear with different ears (Matt. 13: 11, 16)
- ❑ Because we are in the process of coming to know God, when God speaks it creates a "crisis of belief" not a CRISIS
 - Matt. 13:31, the smallest encounter with God has incredible dimensions (mustard seed)



OBSERVATIONS FROM THE VIDEO

- ❑ When we enter the rule of God, no storm where the Master is present will ever overcome us (Luke 8:22-25)
[Jesus never has sympathy with our unbelief]
[ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE IF WE ONLY BELIEVE]
- ❑ Although there is much we believe, we must seek God to help us with our unbelief which shuts down the activity of God
- ❑ If you are a child of God, how much faith do you need to have in God for Him to work?
 - The smallest faith can do a mighty work of God
- ❑ The key to accomplishing anything for God is not how large you are, your budget, or your staff, but the how committed is your obedience to God
- ❑ The world is waiting to see Churches who does not see the bottom line as the world does, but as God



GOD SPEAKS TODAY

During the “crisis of belief, caution must be had by those who are might have their **conscience so compromised** that they are **desensitized** to **sin** and **the Holy Spirit** (Tit. 1:15, I Cor. 8:7).

The reasons they might be led to doubt can be vast and complex – perhaps even through believing a false or partial gospel.

And the solution to freedom from failed trust lies very simply through the receiving the truth God speaks to pliable hearts (Heb. 3:8-9)

As Jesus said in John 8:31-32, “When you continue to embrace all that I teach, you prove that you are my true followers. ³²For if you embrace the truth, it will release true freedom into your lives.”

GOD SPEAKS TODAY

Clearly navigating through the “crisis of belief” can be summarized by three simple tests:

- 1) First, we must determine whether God exists
 - ❑ That shouldn't be too complicated given that God has etched His signature over all of creation such that it testifies to His supernatural genius and design (Rom. 1:20, Psl. 19:1-2).
- 2) 2nd Do you know more about Him than at the start
 - ❑ Once assured of God's existence, we need to ask if He has revealed more about Himself
 - ❑ The God of the Bible can only be known to the extent that He desires to be known and that we desire we have to know Him.
- 3) 3rd Has His truth performed surgery on your heart
 - ❑ Ezek 11: 19-20 – an undivided heart with a new spirit wrought through God's word (Heb. 4:12-13)





GOD IS SPEAKING RIGHT NOW

C.O.B is not necessarily a traumatic event or a life/death emergency but is rather part of the ongoing process of us continually giving ourselves over to God's plan for our lives.

Consider these examples of Faith Crisis:

A. Job -- The expected **moral of the book of Job** is that the **wicked will be afflicted** while often the **righteous are blessed**.

☐ The idea of reward for living a *blameless, righteous, reverent* life that agrees with God is jettisoned .

B. Elijah who stood against the prophets of Baal

☐ After lauding the authority of God in the face of opposing deities, must take flight to save his life from a vindictive queen



GOD IS SPEAKING RIGHT NOW

C. Jeremiah was called to minister against opposition

- ❑ After his comeback from feelings wounded by indignities (Jer. 20), he is **challenged in the verity of his prophetic utterance** by Hananiah (Jer 28)
- ❑ 20:7 he surmised that God had deceived him, used His Divine strength against him and people are allowed to make fun of Him

D. **Three Hebrew Boys in Babylon (Daniel 3)**

- ❑ These three lads, away from home with a strong influence being applied by the culture, yet in their crisis of belief, they refused to alter.
- ❑ They trusted God despite the challenge to choose trusting God with yielding to idolatry
- ❑ They had the faith to allow God's will to control all circumstances

JOHN THE BAPTIZER – PETER – SAUL--TIMOTHY

PERSONAL STUDY

1. What “crisis of belief” have you and/or your church faced that required you doing something beyond what you thought able to accomplish?
2. Describe a time in your life which required faith and your response was not “faithful;” and now what is the different filter for compliance?
3. What are the areas in your life which needs for you to pray like Jesus disciples in Luke 17:15?



PERSONAL STUDY

4. Have you talked to God about the level of your faith and that of your church?

5. Dr. Blackaby stated that how we respond indicates what we believe about God. What did Sarah believe about God in Genesis 18?



“Open Church – Open Bible”

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