

# The Journey of Faith: Investigating Barriers to Belief Part 2 “I don’t want to believe!”

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>*

Everyone is ultimately on a journey of faith! Although we may start from different points in our personal “faith journeys”, we all must wrestle with the choices and challenges we find along the way. Each of us must decide repeatedly who and what to believe and trust. Each choice requires “faith” and moves us further down the path we’re on. Where’s that path taking you? (Pr. 14:12; Deut. 20:15-19) The Devil will resist our attempts to find “the path of life” (Ps. 16:11) and erect “Barriers to belief” (in the truth) in order to keep us in bondage to sin. (John 8:32-36)

**Last week we examined the barrier of “understanding” (I can’t believe!)** This is a barrier of the mind as we confront Satan’s lies with God’s Truth. This can be broken down by the sincere and honest evaluation and application of God’s Truth. (John 8:32-36; 2 Cor. 4:4,6; 10:4,5)

**Breaking through this barrier, often leads to the next!**

## “I Don’t Want to Believe”.

Some people don’t really want to hear the truth. (Example: Movie “The Matrix”). This is usually more about their lifestyle than the evidence. They prefer “blissful ignorance” that allows them to “play god” (make their own rules) rather than confronting the “inconvenient truth” about the real God which demands a “humble repentance”. These would rather live in lies than to allow the truth to Challenge and Change Them! (John 8:32; Romans 1:18-32)

### 1. This is a matter of the will! Ro. 1:28

A. Obedience brings understanding. John 7:17 *“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”*

B. Disobedience brings Darkness. Jn 5:39-40 *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they ... testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.” (Ro. 1:*

C. Stubbornness is Satan’s tool! 1 Sam. 15:23 *“Stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry”*  
*“A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still!” Ben Franklin*

**Why do we tend to be so “stubborn?”**

### 2. Our morality (*self interest*) often dictates our theology!

Jn 3:19 *“light is come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil!”*

A. People don’t want to bow to a God who might change their lives and values, so they manufacture reasons not to believe!

1) Jewish leaders: (after the resurrection of Lazarus) Jn 11:47-48 *Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.”*

John 12:37,42,43 *“But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: .. Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”*

## 2) Modern “philosophers”.

In his book “Ends and Means” Atheist Aldous Huxley admits:

*“I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning; consequently I assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption... “the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation...from a system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom.”*

## B. This was Satan’s original “bait”. Gen. 3:5

*“Ye shall be as gods, knowing (יָדָעַ {yāda } determining your own) good and evil”*

## 3. Fear of intimacy. This fear keeps God (and others) at a “safe” distance.

A. Intimacy with God is at the heart of Christianity! John 17:3 *“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”*

John 14:21 *“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”*

## 4. Rebellion. (Authority issues) “It’s my life...I’m in charge!”

A. This plays into Satan’s hand! 1 Sam 15:23 *“rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft”*

See Psalm 2

## B. God goal isn’t to control but to:

1) Guide us into our greatest purpose and potential. (Jer. 29:11; Ro. 8:28; Ps. 16:11)

*“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”* (contrast with the *“pleasures of sin for a season”* Heb. 11:26)

2) Protect us from Evil and our own self-destructive choices.

Pr. 3:5,6 *“in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths”*

1 Peter 5:8 *“Your adversary the devil...seeking whom he may devour”*

*“We’re free to choose our own paths, but not free to choose the consequences!”*

## How do you break through these barriers?

### “Count the cost” Luke 14:26-35

1) Where will this path of “playing god” eventually and permanently take you?

Mt 16:24-26 *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

2) Consider where the path of faith and obedience will lead you. (John 10:10)

Ps. 16:11 *“thou shalt show me the path of life, in thy presence is fulness of Joy.*

*At thy right hand are pleasures forevermore”*

Mt. 25:21 *“Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the Joy of thy Lord”*