

# The Journey of Faith: Investigating Barriers to Belief Part 3

## *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>*

Life is filled with choices that require “faith”. Life’s most important choice involves where we’ll spend eternity. Ps. 16:11 reminds us that God wants to show us “*the path of life*”. Jesus described himself as the “good shepherd” through whom we can find the “*way, truth and life.*” (Jn. 10:10; 14:6) 2 Cor. 4:4 reminds us that Satan seeks to either “blind” us from discovering God’s “path of life” or “block” us from pursuing it. He erects “barriers” to belief in order to keep us from seriously considering and “connecting” with God. We’ve examined the following barriers to belief:

- **I Can’t believe!** This is a matter of the *mind* or our understanding as we contrast God’s truths to the lies we’ve believed. (2 Cor. 4:4-6; Jn 8:32, 44,45)
- **I Won’t Believe!** This is a matter of the *will* as we struggle with our own passions, problems and pride and decide whether we are willing to acknowledge and follow Christ as Lord.

This morning we’ll discuss another barrier that Satan throws at us:

## ***“I don’t know What to believe!”***

### **1. Satan is the author of Confusion.**

*1 Cor 14:33 “God is not the author of confusion, but of peace”*

**Confusion:** Akatastasi’a: Disorder. **Peace:** eirē’nē: to join with God.

#### **A. He’s a master at casting doubt! (on God’s Word and Nature)**

Satan means “Adversary/opponent” in Hebrew and “Accuser/slanderer” in Greek.

- 1) Eve in the Garden. Gen. 3:1 *“The serpent was more subtil than any... and he said unto the woman, yea hath God said...?”*
- 2) John the Baptist. Mt 11:2-3 *“Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?”*

#### **B. Doubt leads to “Doublemindedness” James 1:6-8 *“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”***

**Dipsychos:** literally “two-souled”. Mt. 6:24 *“no man can serve two masters”*

- 1) Demas: 2 Tim. 4:10 *“Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.”*
- 2) Laodicean church. Rev 3:16 *“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”*

#### **C. Doublemindedness is affected by our personal preferences.**

- 1) Remember disobedience brings darkness!
- 2) Our “priorities” can obscure our “Perspective!” *“That’s your interpretation!”*

Example: How do teens tend to interpret: *“You need to be home by 11:00!”*

### **2. Satan is a Master at “Counterfeiting” Faith. 2 Cor 11:13-15**

*“such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;”*

#### **A. He does this by mixing “error” with some “Truth.”**

- 1) Eve Gen. 3:4,5 *“ye shall not die... your eyes will be opened...”*

- 2) Israel 2 Kings 17:33 *"They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence."*
- 3) Judaizers Acts 15:1 *"certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved."*

## B. The "error" will contaminate the Truth.

Gal 5:7-9 *"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."*

**"Say a prayer for Jimmy Brown, poor Jimmy is no more.  
For what he thought was H<sub>2</sub>O was H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>!"**

- 1) Modern Religions!!!! Faith in Christ + Anything else = Counterfeit Christianity!

**Galatians 1:6-8** *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."*

**1 John 4:6** *"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."*

**Conclusion:** What's Satan's End Game? To provide so many alternative and conflicting "paths" to God (aka: the "Broad Way") that the only real path to peace (aka: the Strait Gate) **is cluttered or neglected!**

**Matthew 7:13-14** *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."*

**Strait:** stenos': Narrow because of obstacles standing close about!

**Destruction:** apōleia: perdition, destruction, WASTE!

**Application:** Luke 13:24 *"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: (Agōniz'omai: to struggle, {literally to compete for a prize, figuratively to contend with an adversary})*

- 1) Honestly and earnestly seek for the truth. 2 Tim. 2:15; Jer. 29:13, 14; Proverbs 2:4-5

*"If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God."*

- 2) Obediently respond to the truth God reveals to you! 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."*

- 3) Make the pursuit and practice of truth your greatest priority!

Luke 14:33 *"whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."*

Col. 1:17-18 *"he (Jesus) is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head... who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."*

- 4) Recognize the opportunity to respond may pass! Heb 3:7-8

*"Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts"*

**Luke 13:24-25** *"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not... depart from me ye workers of iniquity!"*