

## BFF344 The Work of God is Believing

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** Today, we're going to talk about priests' who believe. Let's pray. Father, help us to add this to our understanding because we know we've been called priests, not called to be we are, and we are priests, and we're a kingdom of priests. We've been chosen for this role, and we appreciate it.

As we seek to understand this calling and wiggle into our armor, so to speak, and what it means to be a priest, I pray that you'll help us to have more understanding today and give us faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** In John 6:28–29, "They said to him, 'What must we do to be doing the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He has sent.'"

This is the work of God that we believe in Him Whom He has sen. If we're going to be doing the work of God, we need to believe in Jesus.

What does it mean to believe? Best definition is found in Hebrews 11:1–3, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it, the people of old received their commendation. By faith, we understand that the universe was created by the word of God so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

The first thing we need to believe is that God is the creator of the universe and He created it by the Word of God. It didn't come out of stuff that we could see. It was divine act. All of Hebrews 11 is about people who lived before Jesus and they believed. Abraham, Noah, Enoch, and Moses, and other men and women of God who had the assurance of things that were hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. How do we get faith? Romans 10:17, "Faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ." I don't know any better way to increase our faith than by saturating ourselves with God's word. The more time I spend in God's word, the more my faith is increased.

We can also pray. Remember that one fellow who asked Jesus to help help him with his unbelief, Mark 9:24. Jesus said, "Everything's possible to him that believes. We can ask God to increase our faith.

Faith is connected to God's inspired word. Hebrews 4:2 says, "The word preached did not profit them not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."

Today, we're going to go read a whole bunch of scriptures, and we're going to be applying what we're hearing before we're finished. We're not just saying this is something to be good to do in the future. We're going to do it today. We are going to mix God's word with faith. We're going to believe and have the conviction, and the assurance, even though we don't yet see the full answers.

I saw a quote by Michael Horton, who is a professor of theology and he said, "People ask why pray if God is sovereign?" Great question. He says, "Why pray if he isn't?" Isn't that good?

**Scott:** Yeah.

**Steve:** Why should we pray? If God is going to do stuff, then let's just sit back and twiddle our thumbs and watch Him do it? He says, "It is because God is sovereign that we are pray-ers, that we make our appeal to Him, the one who has the power of heaven and earth in His hands." We recognize that God is sovereign, which inspires us to pray and ask.

There are two more principles that I have practiced which I believe are essential to this whole idea of being a believer and doing the work of God, believing and mixing with faith with the word of God. One of them is we have to not only be saturated in His word to increase our faith, but to inform our faith.

**1 John 5:14–15** say, "This is the confidence that we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. If we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests, which we have asked from Him."

It's important when we pray when we mix the word of God with faith when we are convinced of the things that He has promised and put those into our prayers that we're praying according to His will.

All of the content in the rest of this podcast is according to God's will because it revealed in His word. One of my favorite guys who applied this principle is Daniel. "In the first year of Darius ... I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking Him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes." (Daniel 9:1–3)

Daniel was reading the words of Jehovah to Jeremiah. Jeremiah, in the spirit, had prophesied that in the captivity, when Judah went up to Babylon, were going to be up there for 70 years and then they were going to return.

Daniel's response was to pray for this to come about. He appealed instead of saying, "Well, God, you said you were going to do this and you're sovereign. I believe you're going to do it." No, he said, "I'm going to pray that this actually happens."

Wouldn't it be fascinating to see the impact of Daniel's prayers because we know that Nehemiah and Ezra and Joshua and Zerubbabel led the return back to the land and it was after 70 years. Daniel and others began to pray and God answered their prayers, and God sent these people back.

This cataclysmic event, where a whole piece of Israel had been taken away for 70 years, following the desolations of Jerusalem, and then Daniel prayed and they returned to Jerusalem and re-established God's kingdom.

Somebody has to pray. There's another word in there that I like, "remind." This is found in Isaiah 62. I have friends that have lived in Jerusalem for many years. They met in their home almost daily and were praying for God to restore Jerusalem and to make it a praise in the Earth, based on Isaiah 62:1-7.

Let's each mix with faith each of these verses, so we can do the work of God right now as we're listening.

"For Zion sake, I will not keep silent. For Jerusalem sake, I will not keep quiet until her righteousness goes forth like brightness and her salvation like a torch that is burning. The nations will see your righteousness and all kings your glory and you'll be called by a new name which the mouth of Jehovah will designate."

"You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of Jehovah and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. It will no longer be said to you forsaken nor to your land will it any longer be said desolate, but you will be called my delight is in her, which is Hepzibah, and your land married, which is Beulah, for Jehovah delights in you and to Him your land will be married for as a young man marries a virgin so your sons will marry you."

"As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride so your God will rejoice over you. On your walls, oh Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen. All day and all night, they will never keep silent. You who remind Jehovah take no rest for yourselves. Give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the Earth."

It's our calling like Daniel, to remind God of what He has said in the inspired Words of God. To bring to His remembrance His promises. Daniel saw what the word of God said and he purposed, "I'm going to remind God about His word. You said that in 70 years we're going to return." He kept reminding God, reminding God, and finally, God answered and He sent His people back.

Some of the passages that I remind God about are Zachariah 12:10, "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and of

supplication so they will look on me whom they have pierced and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over him like the bitter weeping over a first born."

**Zachariah 13:1**, "On that day there will be a fountain open for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness." This is nothing but the blood of Jesus. They're going to say, "Oh, we crucified the son of God and they're going to mourn, but there will be a fountain open and they're going to be able to be cleansed." This is wonderful stuff. I love reading these. I'm believing it as I read it.

Romans 11:25 is puzzling to many people. "A partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and all Israel will be saved." I remind God, "You said that all Israel will be saved and you know who that is. I'm believing for all Israel to be saved."

Another wonderful promise is the universal reign of Christ. Two passages, Isaiah 9:6–7, "Unto us, a child is born. Unto us, a son is given. The government shall be upon His shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace, there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon His kingdom to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from henceforth even forever. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this. God's kingdom is going to increase until it fills the whole earth."

**Revelation 11:15**, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of Our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever." We don't see this right now. We need to have the assurance of things hope for that there's going to be a day when everybody is going to be a part of God's kingdom, and the kingdom of this world is going to come to an end.

What about Jesus and the devil? Three verses. John said in the spirit, John 1:29, "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Not only did He take away our sin, it says in 1 John 3, "You know that He was manifested to take away sins and in Him is no sin. To this end was the Son of God manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil." **Then Hebrews 2:14**, "Through death, He might render powerless, him who had the power of death, that is the devil."

I believe Jesus was manifested. I believe He did take away the sins of the world. I believe He broke the power of hell. I don't see that with my natural eyes. I know the devil is still alive and active, but I'm believing what God's word says there.

I'm also believing that the spirit of God is going to be poured out on all the earth, Joel 2:28–32, "It will come about after this that I will pour out my spirit on all mankind,

and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants, I will pour out my spirit in those days. I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire, and columns of smoke."

"The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of Jehovah comes. It will come about that whoever calls in the name of Jehovah will be delivered or saved."

Now we're almost done. I saved the best ones for last and the easiest ones to remember. Paul in 1 Timothy 2:1-6, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **Who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, Who gave himself as a ransom for all."

When you're praying like this, you have to turn off your theological brain. I thought that some were saved, some weren't saved, some were called, and some weren't. We have limited atonement, unlimited atonement, and all these views. You get your old mind twisted up, and so I just go back to God's word and read, "He desires all people to be saved, so I'm going to pray for all people."

**Habakkuk 2:14**, "The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea."

Jeremiah 31:34, "They will not teach again each man, his neighbor, and each man, his brother saying, 'Know Jehovah, for they will all know Me, from the least to the greatest of them,' declares Jehovah, 'for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.'"

John 12:32-33 "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die"

This next passage appears in three different places, Isaiah, Philippians, and Romans. I probably could just read one, but they're so good that I want to read all of them.

"Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance." (Isaiah 45:22-23)

"God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and

on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9–11)

“It is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’” (Romans 14:11)

Paul obviously was familiar with Isaiah 45, and he kept bringing it up. He brought it up in Romans. He brought it up in Philippians. We see numbers, we see studies, about the church declining and Islam is increasing. That's why we have to pray. That's why we have to believe and stand by the Lord of the whole earth, and that's why we have to be priests doing the work of God, which is believing in Jesus. Now, you have the inestimable task of responding that. What do you think?

**Scott:** The verse you started with is so comforting to me. John 6:29, "The work of God is this to believe in the one who He has sent." That verse encourages me, and I come back to it whenever I don't feel something, because I know I want to feel like Jesus is real, and He's coming back, and all this stuff matters.

The devil wants me to not feel that and not believe that, but when I remind myself that the work of God is to believe, then I remember it's OK if I don't exactly feel it today.

**Steve:** Amen.

**Scott:** My job is to keep believing. When I pair that with the other verse, I was thinking of Mark 5:36. Where the man wants his daughter to be healed, I believe it is, and Jesus says to him, "Don't be afraid. Just believe." I'm like, "Boom," right there. That's your job. Just believe. If you can't remember anything else and you're feeling discouraged, just remember that phrase. Just believe. Jesus said it. Do it.

**Steve:** Amen. That's good. Faith is a choice. Sometimes we have great faith. Sometimes God is so close and so real that it just seems like can hardly put words to it, and it's easy to believe. Other times it's dark and we feel alone, and we feel like, "Oh God," but, you know what? We're just going to keep our eyes on Jesus.

**Steve:** When you think about Daniel, he was living most of his life in a foreign kingdom. Yet he looked to the promises that God had made to Jeremiah, through Jeremiah, the words that God had given Jeremiah. He says, "No, this is temporary. We only have to be here for 70 years." He set himself to pray and remind God that you said 70 years are up and according to my calculations, this is the year, Next thing you know, Cyrus comes along, and God calls Ezra and Nehemiah, and then Joshua and Zerubbabel from the book of Zechariah. Interesting, isn't it?

**Scott:** Indeed.

**Steve:** All right. Praise the Lord. If you've been following along and just believing as we read these scriptures, I hope that your faith has been strengthened, and I believe you have been cooperating with God today.

We've all been cooperating because, as we believe God's word, we make a difference. That's where faith comes. Faith comes from hearing the word of God. Amen. Father, thank you for these incredible promises, and thank you that you've helped us today to mix them with faith so it's profitable. Thank you for these thoughts.

It's not about feelings, it's about choices. We choose to believe, we choose to be priests who are doing your work in our generation today. Regardless of what our little eyes see physically, the eyes of faith, we see that your word is going to come to pass. Heaven and earth are going to pass away, but your word is going to endure forever. We believe that too. Thank you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.