

Unbelief

Matthew 13:58-And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (KJV)

Personal unbelief must be challenged and overcome for Christian growth to occur. Lukewarm beliefs in the Lord will inhibit entry in the Heavenly Kingdom. (Rev. 3:16) Resolute belief in the Lord is necessary to battle daily temptations and sinfulness. Consistent nourishment in the Church leads to stronger belief in the Lord God. Hunger in the person's soul must be authentically addressed to overcome unbelief. The Church provides the direct experiences with Jesus Christ to nourish the soul.

Matthew 17:20-And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you (KJV)

Acknowledging life's complete dependency on the Lord stems from strong faith. Faith increases with recognition that a thought or breath cannot occur without God. Movement of the body, vision and speech require the goodness and mercy of God. The sun rising each day and darkness occurring each night are actions of the Lord. The regular change of the seasons of the year depend on the Lord's deliberate acts. The order in the universe is derived from the Lord's known creation of the world.

Mark 6:6-And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching. (KJV)

Christians look beyond the self to the Lord for the existence of the world and life. Narrow mindedness and unbelief lead to failure to achieve life's real possibilities. Complete faith in the Lord God opens the unlimited possibilities of human growth. Illnesses, problems and tragedies are overcome with resolute faith in the Lord God. The Lord at work through history puts pandemics and plagues into perspective. Complete faith in the Lord's goodness keeps hope alive in times of darkness.

Mark 9:24-And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. (KJV)

Jesus Christ rising from the grave came after the great darkness of the crucifixion. The Resurrection verifies the Lord is capable of bringing goodness out of tragedy. The Holy Gospel describes the importance of reaching out to the Lord for help. Believers have the responsibility to confront personal unbelief and seek the Lord. The Lord is attentive and receptive to believers seeking to overcome unbelief. With help from God, miracles are possible for believers even in this present age.

Venerable Father Alypius the Stylite. November 26/December 9, 2020. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic