

## Faith Blockers and The Faith Releaser

### Six examples of faith blockers (faith stealers) ...

The Bible warns us there are certain signs that point to a lack of faith.

#### 1) Worry

Worry indicates that we think our circumstances are beyond God's ability. It steals His position of sovereignty and proves we don't really trust him.

##### **Matthew 6:30-34**

*If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

#### 2) Fear

Fear also indicates that we think Satan or the world is more powerful than our Lord. The Bible says that God has not given us a spirit of fear, so who do you think it comes from?

##### **Matthew 8:26**

*He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.*

#### 3) Unbelief

Unbelief stops the flow of the Holy Spirit. Often Jesus even cleared the room of unbelievers to work his mighty healing miracles.

##### **Matthew 21:18-22**

*Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked. Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."*

Take note: Unbelief may prevent an abundance of miracles.

##### **Matthew 13:58**

*And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.*

#### 4) Doubt

##### **Matthew 14:31**

*Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"*

## Examples of faith blockers *(cont.)*

### 5) Failure to perceive the truth

Sometimes we don't even recognize God's willingness to perform His promises. We could ask for and expect miracles, but we don't even think of it.

#### **Matthew 16:8-11a**

*Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread?"*

### 6) Inability to cast out demons

#### **Matthew 17:19-20a**

*Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so little faith."*

#### **1 John 5:4**

*For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.*

In some ways it's a simple thing. Just remember not to elevate faith above love. The Bible doesn't.

#### **1 Corinthians 13:13**

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

#### **Galatians 5:6**

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

## The Faith Releaser

Being a child of God positions us for overcoming faith.

#### **1 John 5:4**

*For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.*

## Conclusion

### How's your faith?

Is your God big enough? Is He big enough to make any real difference in your life, to overcome hard problems and impossible obstacles in your life? Is your God big enough and do you believe that He loves you enough to act on your behalf at work, in your church, neighborhood, family, school or relationships? God sent his son to die for you. What else does he have to do to prove his love for you? What else can he do?

**How do you know your faith is strong, if you never ask it to do something remarkable?**