



DATE	December 24, 2017
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Help in Our Unbelief
SERIES	Isaiah says God gave us “a sign.” Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel. But if we only celebrate Jesus’ birth, we’re missing the sign. Jesus’ life was a sign of your thirst for truth, God’s pursuit of you, comfort in chaos and help in unbelief. This Christmas, let’s Behold all of what Jesus offers.

Most of us, at some time, will struggle with issues of unbelief. The good news is that Jesus can handle those thoughts and fears. He will equip you just like he did for Thomas. Faith is a journey with Jesus Christ along the entire path of our life. It is a relationship not a formula and as such, struggling with unbelief is part of that journey and relationship.

Thomas said he wouldn’t believe Jesus was alive until he put his hands in the nail marks and in Jesus’s side. Can you relate to Thomas? Do you tend to be skeptical, or are you quick to believe by faith? Why is that the case?

What do the following scriptures tell us about belief versus unbelief? Mark 9:23-25, John 3:18-19, Matthew 17:20, and James 1:6. Recall how Sarah struggled with doubt in Genesis 18:10-14.

David said Christmas is about believing in Jesus who is worth relying on, meets us in our suffering, brings comfort in chaos, and helps us in our unbelief. Do you agree with that? Why or why not? Are there times you have seen evidence of these in your life?

Can you describe a time in your life when Jesus showed up and made sense of your circumstance, either through something you read, someone’s passing comment, or some other means? In other words, has there been a time when Jesus met you in your unbelief and helped you see Him?

We generally function with a “seeing is believing” attitude about most things in life. We want to be sure; we want to have it proven to us. How is this mindset in conflict with these examples that we readily accept?

1. We all believe atoms exist, but no one can see them with the naked eyes.
2. We all believe that the light will go on when we flip the switch, but we can't see the electrical flow.
3. Being a software engineer for close to 30 years, I have yet to see a bit (1 bit is like an on/off switch) 32 or 64 of them are used to construct a massive number of combinations to comprise an app, yet I believe that the shopping cart on Amazon.com will work.
4. We can't see the nutrients in a piece of fruit or vegetable, but we believe they will be absorbed by our digestive system and nourish the cells of our body.

Why is it hard to apply this same idea of “believing is seeing” to faith?

As we start the New Year, how can you switch your mindset to “believing is seeing” rather than the reverse? In what areas of your life do you need to stop doubting and start believing?