



‘CAN WE BELIEVE AGAIN?’

Mark 9:23; Matthew 17-20; 21:21, 22; 1 Corinthians 1:18-28

What a question to ask a group of born-again, faith-filled Christians. The entire Gospel of Jesus Christ is based upon our ability to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God and that He died, was buried, and rose again for our salvation (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Faith and belief are two words, which constitute the solid foundation upon which all of the concepts of Christianity are founded. To believe is extremely important when you just don't know how it will turn out. When you can believe that God will always open doors that are locked and provide a way out of no way, while giving you inner peace, your belief system is intact.

As African Americans oppressed by an insensitive, in-compassionate world, our foremothers and forefathers were discriminated against and disenfranchised to the margins of society. They were considered $\frac{3}{4}$ human and incapable of positive success. They were criticized, castigated, and even murdered for believing that they were equal to other counterparts. Though they faced seemingly insurmountable odds their belief in an almighty God was unswerving. They believed, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that God would always deliver them.

Today's text is so simple yet complex for the modern day Christian to comprehend. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1 that God will use simple messages, things, and people to "confuse those who think they know so much." (1 Corinthians 1:19). We live in a world where people think that they have all of the answers and don't really need God. What a tragedy and a prescription for absolute failure. God always has a ram in the bush, an Ark for the drowning, and a cross for the lost. God has never left those who believe in Him alone. Belief gives you power and wisdom to surpass those who think they have it made. God can and will use you when you surrender and submit to His will and authority. When you truly believe that all things are possible, God will bring it to pass. I am writing this message one day before history will be made in a southern state called South Carolina. The nay-sayers and unbelievers do not believe that God can use an humble, lowly servant to bring a message of healing to a nation.

The question I raise to us as African-American Christians is if we can once again believe that with God "We can do anything, accomplish any task, and climb any mountain." Can we once again believe that if we come together as a collective body and voice under God's anointing that nothing is impossible for us.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, let us once again believe that God has chosen us to speak to the world about what He can do economically, educationally, politically, and spiritually in achieving His mission on earth.

Let us once again believe that we have God's power within us to not only attain eternal life, but to use His power to improve our conditions on earth by worshipping, voting, acting, loving, and **BELIEVING AS ONE FAMILY AGAIN!!!**

Pastor Gerald L. Durley