

None of us want to settle for second best. All of us as believers want to be all we can be in Jesus Christ. But there are attitudes which can either help or hinder us...

One is faith, the other is unbelief. we see a climate of unbelief and wrong attitudes that limit the work of God.

As the story unfolds, we find Jesus coming back to His home town. As He and His disciples were there, He began to teach in the synagogue on the Sabbath day. As usual, His teaching was brilliant. He taught as one who had authority, and not as the Scribes.

Rather than allowing Jesus to answer for Himself, they answered their own questions. He is just a "carpenter" who left town. He is just the son of Mary.

What they were portraying was not faith, but unbelief. "And he [Jesus] was amazed at their lack of faith." In other words, because of their unbelief, Jesus was limited. The power of God was held back because people refused to believe Him.

What was the cause of their unbelief? What they had before them was the Son of God. What they saw was the carpenter, the son of Mary. Their limited views kept them from seeing who Jesus really was.

A distorted view of Jesus - who He is or what He can do – robs us of faith. In much the way today, we limit what God can do because of our limited viewpoint. We must learn to see beyond our own natural understanding.

We do not have to understand how a thing works in order to receive it by faith. I may not understand electricity, but I'm not going to live in the dark.

Thank God that a lot of things are possible for me beyond my ability to understand them.

The Bible teaches us that we walk by faith and not by sight. Walking by sight limits what God can do.

The message here is simple: Unbelief limits the power of God.

How could this little boy who grew up in their neighborhood be anything more than they were?

They not only couldn't see, they didn't want to see. They had limited hearts as well as limited vision. You see, limited views mean limited lives. Unbelief locks up what God can do in our lives.

Jesus came to this town with a desire to minister to them. Because of their unbelief, what God can do for them was limited

DON'T LIMIT GOD BY OUR UNBELIEF

There may be situations or things around us that we got too familiar with. We limit Him when we look at things – familiar things and situations – and not believe that God can do anything about it.

We limit Him when we see ourselves – we know ourselves too well – and not believe that God can use us to do anything great.

We limit Him when we look at our ministry over all these years – and not believe that God can do anything to change it.

We limit Him when we see our church – and not believe that God will bring revival.

We limit God each time we choose to live by sight and not by faith!

You see, we want to move away from a limited view.

Faith grows as we give attention to what God is saying in His Word. Faith comes through His Word! As we keep the Word in our hearts, faith will grow.

You see, unless we are open to the possibilities of God, we will never see what can be, we will always be limited to what has been and what is.

The challenge for us is to always maintain the attitude that God can do anything.

The opposition to Jesus in His hometown did not come from the authorities. The opposition was inside – the people have no faith in Him. The lack of faith limits what they could have received through Jesus

Will this happen to us? Will doubt or unbelief hinder what God wants to do in your ministry or your life?

Don't limit Him by our unbelief!