

Faith's Answer to Unbelief

A minister once related the following true story: "There was a friend of mine preaching in Glasgow Green a few years ago, when someone from the crowd called out, 'May I speak?' After getting permission, he pushed his way through the crowd until he was standing on the platform beside my friend. 'Friends', he exclaimed, 'I do not believe what this man has been talking about. I do not believe in a hell, I do not believe in a judgement, I do not believe in a God, for I never saw any of them.'

He continued talking in this way for a while, when another voice was heard from the crowd: 'May I speak?' The unbeliever sat down and the next man began. 'Friends, you say there is a river running not far from this place, the river Clyde. There is no such thing; it is not true. You tell me that there is grass and also trees growing around me where I now stand. There are no such things; that also is untrue. You tell me that there are a great many people standing here. Again I say, that is not true; there is no person standing here save myself. 'I suppose you wonder what I am talking about; but, friends, I was born blind. I have never seen any of you; and, while I talk, it only shows that I am blind, or I would not say such things. And you,' he said, addressing the unbeliever, 'the more you talk, the more it exposes your own ignorance, because you are spiritually blind and therefore cannot see.'

The spiritual blindness of unbelievers is repeatedly mentioned in the Bible. The Lord Jesus Christ said of the Pharisees, "they be blind leaders of the blind..." (Matthew 15:14) and the apostle Paul says of the Jews in general that there seems to be a veil upon their hearts, "their minds were blinded." (2 Corinthians 3:14. See also Romans 11:7; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 2:11; Revelation 3:17). Unbelieving men cannot see that sin is the greatest evil, that God's Judgment is coming soon, that the world's pleasures and honours are worthless, that the Gospel makes known a full

and free salvation, and that faith, or trust, in Jesus Christ is not only needful but absolutely essential if salvation is ever to be experienced. This is our wretched condition, and is there no cure? Sure it is that we cannot deliver ourselves from this state: only God is able to remove from us our spiritual darkness (Matthew 16:17-17; 2 Corinthians 4:6). Then, put yourself under the preaching of the biblical Gospel; and pray earnestly that God would open your blind eyes to reality, even to the Truth of His written Word.