

## Where Belief and Unbelief Take You

### John 7

#### UNBELIEF IN JESUS ALIGNS YOU WITH THE “WORLD.”

*After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life. <sup>2</sup>But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, <sup>3</sup>Jesus' brothers said to him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. <sup>4</sup>No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup>For even his own brothers did not believe in him. <sup>6</sup>Therefore Jesus told them, "The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right. <sup>7</sup>The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil. <sup>8</sup>You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come." <sup>9</sup>Having said this, he stayed in Galilee. John 7:1-9 (NIV)*

“World” = deep-seated attitude that turns away from the loving creator, and tries to organize its life independently of him. (N.T. Wright)

#### UNBELIEF IN JESUS RESULTS IN MISUNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD. (John 7:14-24)

*Not until halfway through the Feast did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. <sup>15</sup>The Jews were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having studied?" <sup>16</sup>Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. <sup>17</sup>If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. <sup>18</sup>He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. John 7:14-18 (NIV)*

*Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?”<sup>20</sup>“You are demon-possessed,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all astonished.<sup>22</sup> Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a child on the Sabbath.<sup>23</sup> Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath?<sup>24</sup> Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.”*  
John 7:19-24 (NIV)

## **BELIEF IN JESUS GUARANTEES THE PRESENCE OF GOD’S SPIRIT TO EMPOWER YOUR LIFE.**

*On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.<sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”<sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. John 7:37-39 (NIV)*