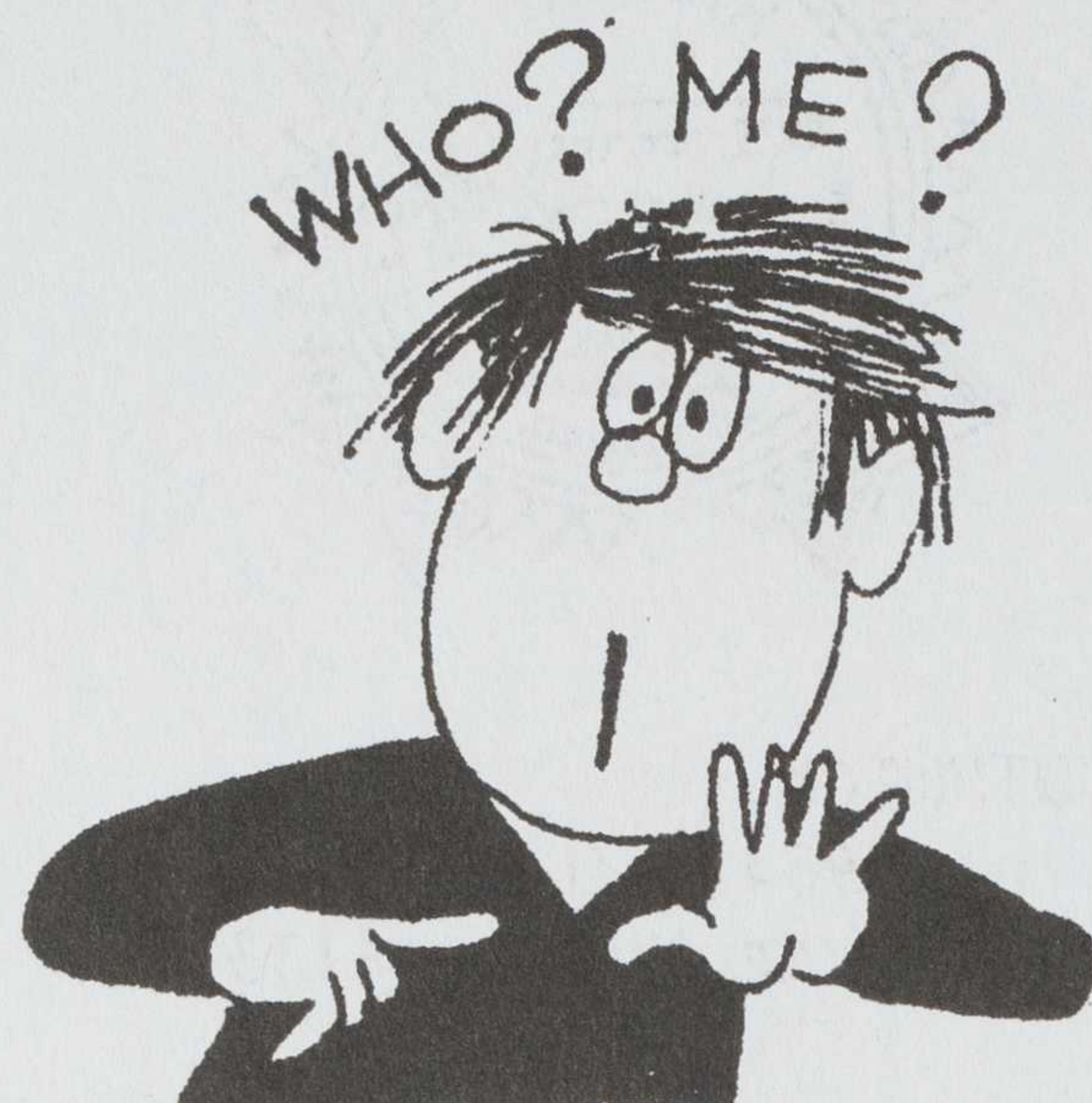




FAILURE TO BELIEVE...

"If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established." ISAIAH 7:9

Unbelieving believers are legion who question AUTHORITY...GOD'S.

Christian, Preacher...you can do a great deal without faith, but nothing that is pleasing to God!

The Septuagint Version of our text is most graphic---"*...If ye believe not, neither will ye at all understand.*" St. Augustine said it: "If ye do not believe you will not understand."

Now hear this: A believer sees invisible things!

The principle message of the text is FAITH is essential to our stability. The Moffat translation states: "*If your faith does not hold, you will never hold out.*"

It is possible to be backslapping and backsliding at the same time!

How often have we robbed ourselves by failure to believe!

St Paul states: "*...for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.*" Acts 27:25 Is the Bible God's WORD? Believe! Has God spoken? Listen! When God gives us St. Paul's faith, we will soon have St. James's works.

It is the "fear of man" that brings the snare of unbelief our way...

Unbelief is blind! There is no spiritual strength in dis-belief. Even the un-belief of what is false is no source of spiritual might. Unbelief, disbelief was the first sin and human pride was the first-born of it!

It is our own failure to believe..which is the impediment preventing our God blessing in "understanding." Our dis-belief is a strength-sapper; nothing in this world causes so much misery as uncertainty...

There are three kinds of stability for our Christian life.

1. Stability of judgement---This refers to the truth of Scripture.
2. Stability of practice----This refers to Christian duty. Obedience.
3. Stability of hope-----Refers to the assurance of the believer.

Each of these is a product of "FAITH", belief.
The victims of un-belief are legion....

How our failure to believe dishonors our God, grieves the Holy Spirit. How dis-belief robs our soul and leaves us stripped, wounded, and half-dead...A prey to error, temptation and grief.