

Do We Believe?

When considering the topic of salvation, it would be wise to acknowledge Jesus' words found in John 14:1-6, *"Let not your hearts be troubled. **Believe in God; believe also in Me.** In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."* Thomas said to Him, *"Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?"* Jesus said to him, ***"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."***

I discussed the importance of hearing God's word in my last article, *"Are We Listening"*, but we must immediately understand that hearing is of no benefit if we do not believe. As Jesus said, *"Believe in God; believe also in Me."* **What does it mean to believe?** I fear that majority who claim to be followers of Christ define belief as simply the acceptance that Jesus is the Son of God. We absolutely must believe He is, but is that all that's expected? We must follow God's word and not man's opinion. You cannot afford a partial, watered-down explanation of belief in the Son of God. This belief, dear friend, is a complete sacrifice of our heart, soul, mind, and strength to the Messiah. It not only requires that we mentally agree that Jesus is God's son, but that He expects and deserves our obedience to His word.

Perhaps you are familiar with John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* What a beautiful, encouraging, heart-warming passage! However, I do have one question: are you familiar with the passages that follow?

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because He has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." John 3:17-21

Take a close look at these verses: can you see how belief is tied to those who come to the light *"so it may be seen that his works have been carried out in God"*? Jesus came to save mankind, but when we do not believe in Jesus, it is because we do not want to confront truth. We don't want to be judged as sinful! We want to do . . . what we want to do. That, my friend, is no belief in Jesus. You cannot claim to believe in Jesus, but not come to the light. As John would record in 1 John 1:5-7, *"This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the*

light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

To benefit from Jesus' sacrifice we must "walk in the light". Jesus was the light who came into the world with glory and truth. He taught His disciples how to believe in God, which would in effect, change the way they would live and think from day to day. They were to glorify God in all that they did.

We could consider a multitude of passages, but please study and see for yourself that belief is more than a mental belief. As clearly stated in James 2:19, *"You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe-and shudder!"* Obviously, James was being sarcastic. It did them no good to simply believe in God. That's not enough. A true belief is seen in obedience to our Creator.

One of the greatest men to ever walk this earth was Moses. You may be familiar with the biblical account of Moses, but if not, just know that He deeply believed in God and served him with everything he had. We read in Numbers 20:12, that Moses fell short one day by disobeying a command from God, (as we all have done in our lives), and God punished Moses. What's interesting is that God charged him in this passage with "not believing" in God. Anyone who knows Moses could say, "What do you mean he doesn't believe in you?" Well, if we defined belief as majority of the world does, you would be right for asking the question. However, if you understand the full scope of belief, you would know that it includes obedience.

*John 8:31-32, "So Jesus said to the Jews **who had believed** in Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"*

There is no greater gift offered to mankind than the forgiveness of sins through God's Son who gave His life for us, but this is not a decision to take lightly. Consider Jesus' words found in Matthew 10:37-39, *"Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And whoever does not take His cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."*

Hopefully you have a better understanding of what it means to believe in Jesus. **Do you believe?** If so, continue to the next article, "Are We Ready To Repent"? If you are completely "in the dark" about who Jesus is and what He did for mankind, we ask that you contact us through our website for a study. It would be a great blessing to open up God's word and study together.

In Him,
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