

Do We “Believe” in Jesus?

What does it mean to “believe” in Jesus and God? This word “believe” is what we are going to take a look at so we can have a better understanding of what Jesus is asking me to do when He says:

- *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* - John 3:16

This word “believes” or “believe” is the Greek word “pisteuo”, which means: to commit, to trust, trust in. When Jesus makes the statement above He is talking about trusting in Him, we can read this verse like this:

- *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **trusts** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* - John 3:16

Now we can see more clearly what Jesus is looking for when it comes to us believing in Him. In the modern day the word “believe” is used very frequently and doesn't hold a lot of weight to it. For example, theoretically I could share with a person my prediction of who is going to be the next president of the United States. I could make a good case and share a lot of information, share my insight and understanding, and make a good case for my opinion. If I make a strong case to this person I'm sharing this information with, they could likely say, “I believe that”, but do they trust that what I'm saying is correct? Believing and trusting are two different things as it takes a lot more to truly trust in something, and this is the type of trust, or belief, Christ is looking for. In the following scriptures the word “believe” will be replaced with “trust” so we can see this more clearly.

- *This man (Jesus) came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might **trust**.* - John 1:7
- *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **trust** in His name:* - John 1:12

In this verse above the word “name” is the Greek word “onoma”. Onoma means “character”, let's replace the word “name” with character.

- *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **trust** in His **character**:* - John 1:12

Now we see an even deeper layer to what Jesus is looking for in us. He wants us to trust (believe) in His character (name). Why? Because Jesus wants a personal relationship with us and if

we trust in His character of perfect love, then we can truly know Christ and we will be willing to have a heart transformation. If we trust in His character then we are truly children of God. We are all God's children, but when we accept and trust in His character then we become a blood relative of God in a spiritual sense.

Jesus wants us to trust in who He is as a person by His testimony. We've all heard the saying, "actions speak louder than words". This couldn't be more true in Christ's witness and example to us as He wants us to trust (believe) in His actions and His words, and both are in harmony with each other. In the following verse Jesus had previously spoken to the Samaritan woman by the well. Jesus gave this woman great insight and even told her about her past life even though this woman had never met Jesus before. This woman ran back to her village and told them about everything Jesus said to her and they said the following:

- *And many of the Samaritans of that city **trusted** in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more **trusted** because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we **trust**, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have **heard** Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."* - John 4:39-42

They did not trust because the woman heard what Jesus said, but because, "we ourselves have heard Him". We can hear Jesus just like they did by reading His words. Jesus said:

- *"**This is the work of God, that you **trust** in Him whom He (God our Father) **sent**.**"* - John 6:29

It's all about trusting in Jesus, what happens if we don't trust in Him?

- *So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?" And He said to them, "**You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not **trust** that I am He, you will die in your sins.**" Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "**Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He (God our Father) who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.**"* - John 8:22-26

Jesus said if we don't trust in Him we will die in your sins, what does He mean by this? The one sin Jesus cannot help us with is the sin of unbelief (not trusting). God has given us all perfect free will because of His perfect love, and He cannot force us to trust in Himself or His Son. Trusting in Jesus is the key to having a relationship with Him and thus accepting His love in our hearts. What is a marriage if a husband can't trust his wife and vice versa? That kind of marriage almost always fails as there has to be trust, and love, in order to live together in harmony. Same exact thing with a relationship with Jesus.

It's not Jesus who does not want to forgive the sin of unbelief (trust), it's that we give up our salvation by not trusting in Christ by our free will. When Adam and Eve were in the garden of Eden

God warned them to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but they didn't trust God and humanity fell as a result. The original sin humanity committed was the sin of unbelief, they didn't trust in what God said. As a result death entered the world by Satan and his crafty deception.

- *But because I tell the truth, you do not **trust** Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not **trust** Me? He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."* - John 8:45-48

Trusting in Christ means there will be a change in our hearts and in our minds, leading to changes in how we live life. This change is the number one obstacle we place in front of ourselves. We have a really hard time giving up our worldly pleasures and activities. We think we know best and we think we know what makes us happy. This change that a true relationship with Christ brings challenges all of these things we hold on to. But little do we know a true walk with Christ brings a level of love, peace, and happiness that we can never find in anything else but Christ. Ultimately, it takes a willingness to trust in Christ in all things to attain such love, peace, and happiness. In the next verse Jesus said this to the Jews:

- *"I told you, and you do not **trust**. The works that I do in My Father's **name** (**character**), they bear witness of Me. But you do not **trust**, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."* - John 10:25-28

What was it they didn't trust?

- Then Jesus said to them again, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief (Satan) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have **life**, and **that they may have it more abundantly**. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."*

The Jews didn't trust (believe) that Jesus came to only save life and give it more abundantly. They thought Jesus was coming with force and violence like the Old Testament people taught God to be. They didn't trust that Jesus could die and be raised by God His Father, and that He came in His

Father's character. This is a great example of the sin of unbelief. Right before Jesus was arrested and killed He was with His disciple and He prayed to God His Father and said the following:

- *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will **trust** in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may **trust** that You sent Me. And the **glory (character)** which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, **and have loved them as You have loved Me**. "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My **glory (character)** which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your **name (character)**, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

Jesus came to Show God's true character of love and He wants us to trust in Him. Do we trust that Jesus can provide for us financially? Do we trust He can protect us and keep us healthy? Do we trust that He can make us whole? Do we trust He can heal our emotional wounds and scars? If we trust in Christ wholeheartedly and ask Him for help in all things He absolutely will do all these things and more.

- *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For **everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened**. - Matthew 7:7-8*
- *And whatever you **ask** in My **name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name, I will do it**. - John 14:13-14*

Jesus wants to help us in every way possible, but we have to take the step to trust in Him in all things. It's not easy to have a true walk with Christ, but it's not any less difficult in the world. Sometimes it seems like prayers are not noticeably answered immediately, but they are, we just might not see it. God is so patient and longsuffering and He's always trying to help us get to a place where we can fully come to Him with all things.

What's amazing about God is that even if we have a hard time trusting we can ask Him to strengthen our trust in Him. There's been many times where I wanted to trust, but something inside my heart was preventing me. I went to God and asked Him to help me identify the wall that was preventing me from trusting Him, and I asked Him to help me remove it. Our heavenly Father wants to aid us in all things, but that comes with asking for this help. If we break down on the side of the road and there is no fix, we'll sit on the side of the road forever. But if we make a phone call and ask for help, or wave down another driver, then we can be saved.

We live in very interesting times, we are going to see a lot of calamities happen before the 2nd coming of Christ, like nothing this earth has ever seen. It's going to seem scary and intimidating, but Christ has a special promise for us:

- *"Because you kept the Word, as I hoped, **I will keep you from the time of the coming trial upon the earth**, to test those dwelling upon the earth." "See, I will come quickly. Guard what you have, so that no one will take your crown." "Whoever overcomes, I will write on him the **name (character)** of my God, and the name of the new Jerusalem, which is the city of my God, which will come from the heavens to the earth, and also My new Name."* - Revelation 3:10-12

Christians have always gone through the dark times in this world. Jesus is not saying He will remove us from those dark times, but He is saying He will be right there with us through everything. If we trust Him He will protect us, if we trust Him He will take care of us in every way in life. Let us ask in prayer that God strengthen our trust in Him so we may gain eternal life.

- *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* - John 3:16