



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#90)
Faith/trust/believing – Introduction

1

FAITH / TRUST / BELIEVING

A WONDERFUL CONCEPT


★ When in the right context ★

As Jesus' followers, we don't merely "believe something"... like the world might!

2

THE NEW TESTAMENT GREEK WORD GROUP TRANSLATED AS "FAITH, TRUST, BELIEVING":

- Occurs nearly 600 times, and includes a variety of related concepts:
 - Faith, trust, believing.
 - "The faith" (what the Bible teaches)
 - Faithful, faithfulness, trustworthy.
 - Opposites: unbelief, unfaithful.
- Easy to translate. This means:
 - It is not an obscure topic.
 - We do not need special training or knowledge of New Testament languages, before we can understand what faith/trust/believing is all about.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS FACT

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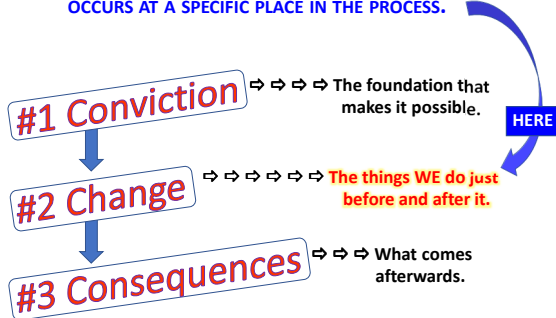
WE HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR MISUNDERSTANDING WHAT FAITH/TRUST/BELIEVING MEANS.

We must be willing to pay attention to the words and how they are used!

- There is no legitimate reason for reaching false conclusions about their meaning.
 - >> WHICH MEANS <<
- There is no justification for the many distortions found in many churches.
 - >> AND <<
- When distortions exist (as they often do in today's churches), it's not the Bible's fault!

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AS WE LOOK AT THE "PROCESS OF SALVATION," WE DISCOVER THAT FAITH/TRUST/BELIEVING OCCURS AT A SPECIFIC PLACE IN THE PROCESS.



#1 Conviction ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ The foundation that makes it possible. **HERE**

#2 Change ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ The things WE do just before and after it.

#3 Consequences ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ What comes afterwards.

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THE BIBLE SOMETIMES USES THE SINGLE CONCEPT OF "BELIEVING" TO REPRESENT THE WHOLE PROCESS OF SALVATION.

More men and women than ever began to **believe** in the Lord.
Acts 5:14 (GW)

Timothy's mother was a Jewish **believer**, ...
Acts 16:1b (GW)

❖ But it can omit the word "believe," and use other concepts just as well.

[God] commands all people everywhere to **repent**.
Acts 17:30b (NIV)

(This does not imply that the unmentioned concepts are less important, or can be omitted.)

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SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW FAITH/TRUST/BELIEVING FIT WITHIN THE "PROCESS OF SALVATION"

- ❖ Since faith/trust/believe all represent the same New Testament concept, any of them may occur within a specific passage.
- ❖ The words "faith" and "believe" are so often misused by the society we live in, that it may help us if we use the word "trust" in their place (when it fits the context).
EXAMPLE: "believe in Jesus" ⇨ "put your trust in Jesus."

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#1 Conviction ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ The foundation that makes it possible.

- ❖ Becoming aware of what Scripture says and accepting it as true.

[Paul and Silas] **shared the word of the Lord** with [the jailer] and all who lived in his household.

... He and his entire household rejoiced because they all **believed** in God.

Acts 16:32, 34b (NLT)

... the proconsul **believed**, because he was astonished at **the teaching of the Lord**.

Acts 13:12b (CSB)

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- ❖ Sometimes a sign or extraordinary event occurred as a "pointer" to the Good News message, or to reinforce it.

GOD (USING PETER) HEALED A CRIPPLED MAN

... instantly **the man's feet and ankles became strong**.

[**The Good News proclaimed** (3:12-26); then the apostles were seized and put in jail (4:1-3).]

But many who **heard the message believed**, ...

Acts 3:7b; 4:4a (NIV)

GOD (USING PAUL) MADE THE SORCERER TEMPORARILY BLIND

Then, when **he saw what happened**, the proconsul **believed**, because he was astonished at **the teaching of the Lord**.

Acts 13:12 (CSB)

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#2 Change ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ The things WE do just before and after it.

- ❖ Repentance – the other internal change – begins before faith/believing can occur. (Some aspects appear to overlap.)

Repent, then, and **turn** to God, ...
[And] many who heard the message **believed**, ...

Acts 3:19a; 4:4a (NIV)

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must **turn to God in repentance** and have **faith** in our Lord Jesus.

Acts 20:21 (NIV)

The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number who **believed turned** to the Lord.

Acts 11:21 (CSB)

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- ❖ Baptism, an external expression of change comes after faith/believing occurs.

But now the people **believed** Philip's message of Good News ... As a result, many men and women were **baptized**.

Acts 8:12 (NLT)

Many Corinthians who heard Paul **believed** and were **baptized**.

Acts 18:8b (GW)

- ❖ There are some things we start doing as an external expression of this change. But then we continue doing them as a consequence of salvation.
 - > One example (obedience) is listed in the next section.

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#3 Consequences ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ What comes afterwards.

- ❖ Some consequences are visible to other people. If the "believing" is genuine, consequences such as these will be present.

THERE WILL BE CHANGES THAT CAN BE DESCRIBED AS "VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACE" IN OUR LIVES

... a great number of people **believed** and turned to the Lord. ... [Barnabas] arrived and **saw the evidence of the grace of God**, ...

Acts 11:21b, 23a (NIV)

OBEDIENCE TO THE GOOD NEWS MESSAGE

... a large group of priests **became obedient** to the **faith**.

Acts 6:7b (CSB)

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- ❖ Other consequences are *invisible* to people. God does them (internally) to a saved person.

JUSTIFICATION (DECLARED RIGHTEOUS)

Everyone who **believes** is **justified** through [Jesus] from everything that you could not be justified from through the law of Moses.

Acts 13:39 (CSB)

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

"All the prophets testify about [Jesus] that through his name everyone who **believes** in him receives **forgiveness of sins**."

Acts 10:43 (CSB)

SALVATION

They said, "**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you will be **saved**..."

Acts 16:31a (CSB)

When God's grace is present, it will accomplish BOTH the *invisible* and *visible* expressions of grace. (See previous slide.)

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Your MISSION this week:

Today's review shows us some basic characteristics of the Bible's "faith/trust/believing."



HOW does it compare to your faith/trust/believing?

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AS WE LOOK AT THIS FAITH CONCEPT,
A GOOD THEME VERSE WOULD BE :

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; **test yourselves**.

Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you— unless, of course, you fail the test?

2 Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

If you do fail the test...

there is still **opportunity** to change and to re-take the test!

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