



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#94)

Faith – "What" we believe/trust

1



WHY??

CAUTION! Religious Quicksand

QUICKSAND JUMP IN!

FIRM FOUNDATION CLIMB UP HERE!

WHY choose the *world's* "faith-based faith," when you can have the *Bible's* "fact-based faith"?

2

UNLIKE THE WORLD AND ITS RELIGIONS, WE HAVE GOOD REASONS FOR OUR FAITH/TRUST/BELIEVING.

- ✓ BECAUSE OF WHAT WE BELIEVE/TRUST...
Things pertaining to the TRUE God, the creator of all things, who (unlike the "gods" of human religion) is not the invention of humans.
- ✓ BECAUSE OF WHY WE BELIEVE/TRUST...
Not because of the very work of God within us.

[LAST TIME]

* THIS is our focus today. *

3

✓ WHAT WE BELIEVE/TRUST...
The CONTENT or FOCUS of our faith/belief = **A FIRM FOUNDATION!**

OUR FOCUS IS ON:

- ✓ **GOD** – The one we have sinned against; but also the only one who can remove the sin barrier that separates us from him.
- ✓ **JESUS** – God in human form, the mediator between God and sinners; the one who accomplishes our salvation.
- ✓ **THE BIBLE** – The foundation on which all truth is based; the only completely accurate knowledge source about God, Jesus and life; its message is God's power for saving and changing us.

[We have to start here; because without the BIBLE, we cannot have accurate knowledge about God and Jesus.]

4

We believe/trust the BIBLE.

Without it, we have no ability to understand anything about genuine faith and salvation.

It is also the power that God uses to accomplish his work in us.

⇒ **A REMINDER: It's from God and it's God's power.**

THE GOOD NEWS IS GOD'S POWER FOR SAVING PEOPLE.

... the Good News. It is God's power to save everyone who **believes**...
Romans 1:16b (GW)

POWER FROM GOD; CONTINUES TO WORK IN THE LIVES OF SAVED PEOPLE.

When you received God's word from us, you realized it wasn't the word of humans. Instead, you accepted it for what it really is—the word of God. This word is at work in you **believers**.
1 Thes. 2:13b (GW)

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The Bible's description of itself is completely different from the way the world views it. **Here is the view that God's people take:**

- All Scripture is God-breathed...
2 Tim. 3:16a (NIV)
- Every word of God proves true.
Proverbs 30:5a (NLT)
- For the word of God is living and active...
Hebrews 4:12a (NET)
- No prophecy ever originated from humans. Instead, it was given by the Holy Spirit as humans spoke under God's direction.
2 Peter 1:21 (GW)
- For you have been born again... through the living and enduring word of God.
1 Peter 1:23 (NIV)
- This word can save you.
James 1:21b (GW)
- He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, ...
James 1:18a (NIV)

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(Since we've looked at many of the Bible issues in the past, we will limit ourselves to a few passages related specifically to faith/trust/believing.)

⇒ **The BIBLE reveals to us what we must believe (facts and obligations).**

THE FACTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE GOOD NEWS:
IT'S WHAT THE APOSTLES AND OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS TAUGHT.

... they **believed** Philip as he preached the good news...

Acts 8:12b (NIV)

Whether, then, it is I or they, so we proclaim and so you have **believed**.

1 Corinthians 15:11 (CSB)

IT'S WHAT WE ARE TO BELIEVE (AND RESPOND PROPERLY TO).

"Repent and **believe** the good news!"

Mark 1:15b (CSB)

... you **believed** the testimony we gave you.

2 Thes. 1:10b (GW)

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⇒ **The words of the prophets were fulfilled in Jesus.** We will accept both (the prophets *and* Jesus) or neither.

MOSES AND THE PROPHETS WROTE ABOUT THE MESSIAH/CHRIST (= JESUS).

[Jesus] said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to **believe** all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:25-27 (NIV)

PEOPLE WHO ACCEPT WHAT THE OLD TESTAMENT SAYS WILL ACCEPT JESUS.

"But if you had **believed** Moses, you would have **believed** me because he wrote about me. And since you don't **believe** what he wrote, how will you **believe** what I say?"

John 5:46-47 (NLT)

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The SIGNIFICANCE of our BIBLE focus?

Though all creation teaches us about God, our suppression of that revelation (Romans 1:18+) has distorted our thinking. We need Scripture (and its power) to correct our perceptions about God.

Furthermore, creation was not *designed* to teach us about salvation and forgiveness. We need the Good News to tell us about that!

DO YOU WANT THE BARRIER BETWEEN YOU AND GOD TO BE REMOVED?

Cling to the Good News message and *don't let go!*

[You must] continue in **faith** without being moved from the solid foundation of the hope that the Good News contains. You've heard this Good News of which I, Paul, became a servant. It has been spread throughout all creation under heaven.

Col. 1:23 (GW)

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We believe/trust GOD.

We are referring specifically to the God who is revealed in the BIBLE. We must reject any "god concept" we have that contradicts what the Bible reveals about God.

⇒ **We must be willing to admit that this God exists, and that he made us.**

We must be willing to stop suppressing the truth of Scripture! (Implied: We must reject all other "gods.")

No one can please God without **faith**. Whoever goes to God must **believe** that God exists ...

Hebrews 11:6a (GW)

By **faith** we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Hebrews 11:3 (CSB)

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⇒ **Our "belief" in God must go beyond merely admitting that he exists. We must trust him with our lives.**

No one can please God without **faith**. Whoever goes to God must **believe** ... that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 (GW)

[The jailer] and his entire household rejoiced because they all **believed** in God.

Acts 16:34b (NLT)

... we have put our **trust** in him.

1 John 4:16b (NLT)

I **trust** God ...

Acts 27:25b (GW)

MERELY ADMITTING THAT GOD "EXISTS" IS SOMETHING THAT EVEN DEMONS DO! (But they don't repent and trust him.)

Even the demons **believe** that—and tremble with fear.

James 2:19b (NET)

11

The SIGNIFICANCE of our GOD focus?

We cannot be saved if we are following a fake god! We need to surrender our pretensions and pursue the God who created us.

This is the God we have sinned against. At the same time, this God is the only one who has power to save us. But for this to happen...

We need to come to God through Jesus Christ.

[Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through him, ...

Hebrews 7:25b (NET)

THIS BRINGS US TO OUR NEXT FOCUS!

12

We believe/trust JESUS.

There is a uniqueness about Jesus that qualifies him to be our mediator (or "go-between"), so that we can have restored fellowship with God.

We do not have to fully understand this uniqueness (though we should be willing to learn what we can). But Scripture tells us that Jesus is *both* the righteous *God* and sinless *man*.

Jesus has also accomplished all that the Old Testament said he would accomplish (except for those things that are related to his *future* return to earth).

The Word [Jesus] became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NIV)

13

⇒ We must acknowledge that there is a special relationship between Jesus (as the "Son") and the Father.

A SPECIAL UNION BETWEEN FATHER AND SON *

Don't you **believe** that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me.

John 14:10 (NLT); see also John 10:38.

WHEN JESUS
PRAYED FOR
THE APOSTLES:

They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they **believed** that you sent me.

John 17:8b (NIV)

Then Jesus said loudly, "Whoever **believes** in me **believes** not only in me but also in the one who sent me.

John 12:44 (GW)

* (We are also called "sons" of God. But our sonship is by adoption (Ephesians 1:5), whereas Jesus is the Son by nature (Philip. 2:6).)

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⇒ Examples of specific things to be believed about Jesus.

"... that they may **believe** that you [= the Father] sent me."

John 11:42b (NIV)

"We **believe** and know that you are the Holy One of God."

John 6:69 (NIV)

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who **believes** that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:5 (NIV)

Everyone who **believes** that Jesus is the Messiah has been born from God.

1 John 5:1a (GW)

⇒ When you have a fact-based faith, the object of your believing can be known!

... I know whom I have **believed**...

2 Ti 1:12b (CSB)

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⇒ Believing "in his name." (The "name" represents the person. We must accept him for all that he is, and respond appropriately.)

Yet to all who received him, to those who **believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God...

John 1:12 (NIV)

Anyone who **believes** in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not **believe** is already condemned, because he has not **believed in the name** of the one and only Son of God.

John 3:18 (CSB)

But these are written so that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by **believing** you may have life in his name.

John 20:31 (CSB)

And this is his command: to **believe in the name** of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

1 John 3:23 (NIV)

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⇒ Believing the things he did (and their significance).

JESUS WAS SINLESS IN ALL THAT HE DID

Who among you can convict me of sin?

John 8:46a (CSB)

He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn't sin.

Hebrews 4:15b (GW)

JESUS' HEALING MIRACLES WERE PICTURES OF SPIRITUAL REALITIES

[Example: Physical healing ⇒ spiritual healing.]

"Receive your sight; your **faith** has healed you."

Lk 18:42b (NET)

"Healed" = "saved" or "delivered."

The gospels give special emphasis to Jesus' miracles. They were signs to the Jews, pointing to who Jesus was. *But most didn't pay attention to the signs.*

[If] you refuse to **believe** me, then at least **believe** the things that I'm doing. Then you will know and recognize that the Father is in me and that I am in the Father."

John 10:38b (GW)

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⇒ Believing the things he said (and their significance).

THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE THINGS JESUS SAID!

The temple guards answered, "No human has ever spoken like this man."

John 7:46 (GW)

WE SHOULD NOT HAVE THE DISBELIEF THAT THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAD!

If I have told you about earthly things and you don't **believe**, how will you **believe** if I tell you about heavenly things?

John 3:12 (CSB)

SOMETIMES HIS WORDS WERE PROPHETIC, AND THE PEOPLE WOULD UNDERSTAND AND BELIEVE THEM LATER!

After he came back to life, his disciples remembered that he had said this. So they **believed** the Scripture and this statement that Jesus had made.

John 2:22 (GW)

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⇒ **"Believing in Jesus" – trusting him to do what he has promised.**

We must accept as true whatever Scripture says about Jesus – who he is, what he accomplished, etc.
But we must also trust him to do what he has promised he will do.

"... everyone who **believes** in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."
Acts 10:43b (NIV)

"**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you and your family will be saved."
Acts 16:31b (GW)

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you **believe** in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
1 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV)

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⇒ **Believing/trusting Jesus as "Lord."** (= The one who rules over us.)

They answered, "**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you and your family will be saved."
Acts 16:31 (GW)

For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
Romans 10:9 (NLT)

... the Lord, in whom they had put their **trust**.
Acts 14:23b (NIV)

"... we [= Jews] **believe** that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus in the same way they [= gentiles] are."
Acts 15:11b (CSB)

THIS IS WHY THE APOSTLES OFTEN CALLED THEMSELVES "SERVANTS" OR "SLAVES."

Paul, a slave/servant of Jesus Christ...
Romans 1:1 ("servant" and "slave" are both common ways to translate the word)

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The SIGNIFICANCE of our JESUS focus?

The "Jesus" of the Bible is so much more than even the "best" "Jesus" the world has to offer.
This is because we can discover the real Jesus only in the Bible.

The "Jesus" of the Bible:

*At the beginning of history, this Jesus created us (John 1:3).
At the center point of history, this Jesus died and came back to life for us.
At the end of history, this Jesus is coming back for us.*

Everything about Jesus is a reason to trust him!

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OUR MISSION!!

Those who have this type of faith are on a firm foundation.
They will receive what God has promised them.

Let us pursue this type of faith...
and not be lazy about it!

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through **faith** and patience inherit what has been promised.
Hebrews 6:12 (NIV)

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Credits (1)

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Credits (2)

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