

# BELIEVE

The main verse I am going to teach on is John 3:16. Let's read it:

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

This is one of the most important verses in all of Scripture. I believe this verse is a great comfort to us because it plainly states how much God loves us.

Another reason it is such an important verse is that it tells us how to have everlasting life. That means to live for all of eternity with God in happiness, peace, blessing and joy. No pain, crying, sorrow or death only good things.

**(Rev.21:1-4)** That's what anyone in their right mind wants.

This verse tells us how to have eternal life with God. He tells us the way. There is only one way to heaven and that is Jesus Christ. **(John 14:6)** Don't listen to anyone telling you that Muslims and Christians serve the same God. That is a lie. They don't even believe Jesus hung on the cross. Don't listen when they say that all roads lead to heaven or that everyone goes to heaven. There's one way and His name is Jesus.

The part of that verse that I really want to focus on is what it means to believe in Jesus. We want to get this right because our salvation depends on this. If we misunderstand this passage of Scripture we won't make it to heaven. I want all of you to be there with me one day. We don't want to skim past what is being said here, thinking we know it already, because this is one of the most quoted verses in the whole Bible.



You usually see it displayed at football games and other sporting events. Everybody is familiar with this verse, even unbelievers.

What does it mean to believe in Jesus? I'm going to tackle that today because I want to be sure you really get it. It isn't about believing in your mind that, yeah, He really walked this earth in the flesh and then was crucified and resurrected and is alive forevermore. A lot of people are deceived thinking that just believing those things are true, is their ticket into heaven. History bears out the fact that Jesus really did those things - not to believe that would be foolish. But just believing those things is not what is meant here in this passage.

To really understand what it means to believe in Jesus we need to understand what God says about **doubt, unbelief, rebellion and disobedience.**

Let's read a passage out of Numbers back when the children of Israel were wandering around out in the wilderness. They had been complaining against Moses and Aaron because they didn't have any water to drink.

**Numbers 20:8,12,24 – (God is giving Moses instruction here)** Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as He commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts *also*. And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed Me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

God said they did not believe Him. It really doesn't seem to fit that they did not believe God could bring forth the water because He had already done that very thing previously at Rephidim. (**Exodus ch.17**) It seems what is really conveyed is their disobedience. The way they acted, being angry and Moses saying what he

said here, calling the people rebels and striking the rock did not put the people in mind of God in a divine light. God should have been honored before the people for miraculously supplying this water but the way it was done was all wrong. And we can only assume that Aaron went along in agreement with how Moses acted and what he said, because he received the same judgement for this sin against God.

Now let's go to verse 23 & 24 to find out what God thought about their unbelief or that is their disobedience: And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in mount Hor, by the coast of the land of Edom, saying, Aaron shall be gathered unto his people: for he shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because ye rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah.

Now we see the punishment for Aaron, and Moses also was not allowed to enter in. Neither of them would enter into the promised land. God says that they rebelled against His Word. They sinned against God and because God is holy He must and will judge sin.

The Bible says rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (**1 Samuel 15:23**). When you doubt God's Word, you won't obey it. When you don't believe God's Word you won't obey it. Therefore if you are not obeying His word, you are disobeying and that is rebelling against His Word and against God, He views that the same as witchcraft which is an abomination to Him. So doubt, unbelief, disobedience and rebellion are all tied together.

### **BELIEVE IN or HAVE FAITH IN**

**Romans 11:30** – (Paul speaking to The Romans who had been pagans – against God) For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:

My Bible shows that in this passage “not believed” is the same as not obeyed. And their “unbelief” is the same as their “disobedience” talking about the Jews. In other words to believe means to obey and that's what it means to believe in Jesus. Simply put, belief in Him is to obey Him. No obedience, means no belief, means no salvation.

From my 1800's dictionary under the word believe:

In theology, to believe sometimes expresses a mere assent of the understanding to the truths of the gospel; as in the case of Simon the sorcerer. Acts 8. In others, the word implies, with this assent of the mind, a yielding of the will and affections, accompanied with a humble reliance on Christ for salvation. (John 1:12, 3:15).

Me: The latter is the meaning in John 3:16. That you agree with the truth of Who Jesus is (His power, authority and divinity) and what He did, but also that you yield your will to His will for your life, and your affections or that is your desires to His desires for your life. And you rely on Him for salvation, and that means for eternal life, for deliverance from satan and the kingdom of darkness, for deliverance from your enemies and from all that comes against you in this life, deliverance from destruction, danger or great calamity. Salvation is the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death, and the conferring on him everlasting happiness. Deliverance from enemies; victory. That is what salvation means.

In popular use and familiar discourse, to believe often expresses an opinion in a vague manner, without a very exact estimate of evidence, noting a mere preponderance of opinion, and is nearly equivalent to think or suppose.

This definition of believe in John 3:16 is where many are stuck. It is just an opinion or something they think or suppose based on history or evidence or because someone else believes strongly and has persuaded them that Jesus is real. But it is only belief in the mind and not of the heart. Their life has not changed at all. They are not moved to obedience of God's Word. That is not belief in Christ.

From my Pictorial Bible Dictionary:

Under faith: In His miracles and teaching Jesus aimed at creating in His disciples a complete trust in Himself as the Messiah and Savior of men. Everywhere He offered Himself as the object of faith, and made it plain that faith in Him is necessary for eternal life, that it is the certain outcome of faith in the OT

Scriptures that God requires it of men, and that refusal to accept His claims will bring eternal ruin. His primary concern with His own disciples was to build up their faith in Him.

The record in Acts shows that the first Christians called themselves “the believers” (Acts 2:44, etc.) and that they went everywhere persuading men and bringing them unto obedience to the faith that is in Jesus (Acts 1:7; 17:4; 28:24). Before long, as communities of believers arose in various parts of the Mediterranean world, the meaning and implications of the Christian faith had to be taught them in considerable fullness by the apostolic leaders, and so the NT books appeared.

It is in Paul’s epistles that the meaning of faith is most clearly and fully set forth. Faith is trust in the person of Jesus, the truth of His teaching, and the redemptive work He accomplished at Calvary, and, as a result, a total submission to Him and His message, which are accepted as from God. Faith in His person is faith in Him as the eternal Son of God, the God-man, the second man Adam, who died in man’s stead, making possible justification with God, adoption into His family, sanctification, and, ultimately, glorification. His death brings redemption from sin in all its aspects. The truth of His claims is attested by God’s raising Him from the dead. Some day He will judge the quick and the dead.

**Faith is not to be confused with a mere intellectual assent to the doctrinal teachings of Christianity, though that is obviously necessary. It includes a radical and total commitment to Him as the Lord of one’s life.**

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REPEAT ABOVE

Unbelief, or lack of faith in the Christian Gospel, appears everywhere in the NT as the supreme evil. Not to make a decisive response to God's offer in Christ, means that the individual remains in his sin and is eternally lost. Faith alone can save him. **(Eph.2:8-9)**

In another of my Bible dictionaries it says this under faith: belief in and loyalty to God.

**Romans 10:9-10** - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Here is our word believe - again. It says with the heart man believes unto righteousness. That means when you sincerely believe in Jesus, you are moved to begin to live a righteous life. You will not be ashamed but will be openly confessing your faith in Him. Do you know that recently I asked someone if their spouse was saved and they said, well I guess that is their business. You know what that means – no, they are not saved. Being a Christian means you are sharing Jesus to others, sharing God's Word to others, not keeping your Christianity to yourself. What non-sense! The Bible tells us to let our lights shine. **(Matt.5:16)** If I asked someone about you, would they answer right away that they know you are a Christian?

True belief in Jesus will move you to obey God's Word. The word believe in John 3:16 is not just a thought of agreement, it is that, plus obedience. It is both and if obedience is lacking then there is no belief.

**John 14:15, 21** – (Jesus said) If ye love Me, keep My commandments. V.21 He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.

In order to show Jesus we love Him, we keep His commandments and keep means obey His commands which is The Word of God. Those who think it is just with the mind that they believe and that they don't have to obey are fooling themselves.

As we learned, faith means complete loyalty to God. When you don't obey Him, then you don't love Him, you are not loyal to Him. Those that don't love Jesus will not be in heaven for all of eternity. It's that simple. Heaven is not going to be filled with people or angels who do not love Jesus. Just saying you love Jesus is meaningless lip service if you are not also obeying Him. **(Matt.15:7-9)**

**Rev.21:8** - But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The unbelievers who did not humble themselves and obey Jesus thereby showing Him that they love Him will not be in heaven. Search yourself and see whose will is being done in your life. Are you feeding daily on God's Word and doing the things that He asks you to do? Or are you picking and choosing what you want to obey and leaving the rest out? Only doing the things that are convenient. Are you denying yourself (your desires) and picking up your cross daily and following Jesus? **(Matt.16:24, Luke 14:27)** The cross was shameful and a hard burden to bear. We will be hated in this world for following Jesus. Are you ok with that, have you made peace with that? You have to bear up under your cross and endure the shame of it and all that the world throws at you in order to love Jesus and follow Him.

Heaven is worth it. Jesus is more than we could ever imagine. He gave His life so we could live forever in happiness. We cannot even imagine the pure joy that is waiting for us in heaven. **(1 Cor.2:9)**

**Matt.13:45-46** - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Heaven is worth everything you feel you are missing out on or giving up in this life. It is worth any price you could ever pay just to attain it. Jesus is the only way to be saved. To believe in Him and have eternal life you must be completely loyal to Him and do all He asks of you.

**CLOSING**

You might be wondering what does He ask of you. Like what do I have to do or how can I know I'm obeying Him. Once you are truly saved, you read His Word daily so you can grow in your Christian life. If you don't read His Word then you are not obeying Him. **(2 Tim.2:15, Hosea 4:6)** If you wonder why God isn't talking to you then you are not reading His Word. He always speaks through His Word. As you read it you learn more and more what He expects of you like being equally yoked in marriage and relationships, not having sex outside of marriage, training your children up in God's Word and His will, treating others how you want to be treated, loving the unlovable, not using profanity or ugly words, not being vindictive, forgiving others, praying daily, keeping the 10 commandments, being a cheerful giver, using your gifts and talents for God's glory, fasting and many more things. Above all, keeping Jesus as the most important person in your life, as Head over all.

Believing in Jesus is not just attending a church service and going forward at the end of the service and saying a quick little prayer and saying you believe in Him and then never doing anything He requires of you. Leaving the church that day and living the same way you always did, an unchanged life means you are not saved. A disobedient life means you are not saved. Those that prayed a meaningless prayer that had no effect on their lives will not be in heaven. They were not taught properly, not disciplined in God's Word at all. They were not baptized into The Holy Spirit and were most probably never really saved because they were not sincere and were not taught the deep and true meaning of what salvation is. They were not willing to pay the price to attain eternal life. They lived for themselves and for what others thought and could not live for Jesus and humble themselves to do His will.

Real salvation comes when you are sick of your sinful life, sick of your sin and you are torn up over your sin against God and you are so sorry about it, you are struck in the heart and grieving over your sin against God. You cry out to Jesus and ask for forgiveness and you confess to Him the sinful things you have been doing against Him. You sincerely ask for forgiveness and ask Him to help you to live a righteous life. You end your friendships with ungodly people who will influence you away from Christ. Your life should change immediately and then change



more and more as you continue to grow in Christ and in the faith. Many of you will need deliverance because of the things you have participated in and done to yourself in order to live a changed life. Anyone who has participated in things of the occult, in witchcraft of any kind, tattoos, etc. will need deliverance. I recommend new Christians to listen to the “New Christian Basics” teaching. And once saved and delivered you must seek the baptism into The Holy Spirit. You will not be able to live a Christian life without the power of The Holy Spirit. I suggest you listen to the teaching I did titled “Baptism of The Holy Spirit” – that teaching and the New Christian Basics teaching is on the church website: [threeheartschurch.org](http://threeheartschurch.org).

## **PRAYER**