

How does a Person Come to Believe?

Though some teach – and it is logical to think – that *people have the ability of themselves* to believe, the Bible says otherwise:

- In **Ephesians chapter 2** it says that “God ... made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions” (NIV Ephesians 2:4-5)
 - God came to us!
 - God connected us to Christ! God did so by giving us faith to *truly believe in Christ!*

And why did God have to do so?

Because we were spiritually dead, thus we were:

- Helpless to believe!
 - Helpless to help God help us to believe!
 - *Fully dependent on God!*
- In **Ephesians chapter 2** it also says that “it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” (8) *But what do those words mean?*
 - Grace – God loves us, *though we are completely undeserving!*
 - By grace – Though we are all undeserving, God saved us so *that we will not perish!*
 - Through faith – That is the means by which God connected us to Jesus, our

Savior! *God imparts that gift through Baptism (Ephesians 5:25; Titus 3:5) and through His Word (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23)!*

Conclusion

Now you know that believing is important! It is through believing that we benefit from Jesus finished work – *His sinless life and sacrificial death!* Believing is like the person on the front of this brochure; as she has her complete trust in the man to catch her, *so we have our complete trust in Jesus to save us!*

You also know what it means to believe! It’s more than something we *say*; our believing *unites us to Christ our Savior!* Then, united with Christ, our lives are *different*: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV)

You also know how a person comes to believe! That is God’s work through Holy Baptism and the Bible. Now, ask yourself: *Where is my complete trust for eternal life?* May it always be in Jesus; He is:

- The way and the truth and the life!
- The only way to heaven! *Amen!*

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Do You Believe

In Jesus For Eternal Life?



Is all your trust in Jesus to rescue you from sin, death, and hell?

Introduction

Today, in the United States, many people:

- *Call* themselves Christians and
- *Say* they believe in Jesus.

But do all such people have eternal life?

Jesus said these words to people who were speaking like Christians: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” (Matt. 15:8 NIV)

The Bible uses these words to describe people who confess to be Christians, but live like the sinful world: “They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him...” (Titus 1:16 NIV)

May God use this brochure to help you know – beyond any doubt – that you believe in Jesus for eternal life!

Why is Believing Important?

In Numbers chapter 21 the people spoke against God; therefore, God sent poisonous snakes among the people; many died.

However, *God made a way for the people to live!* God said to

Moses: *“Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”* (8)

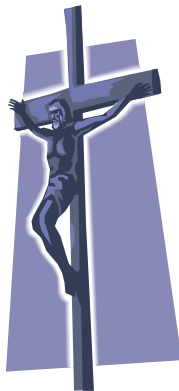
But how were the people supposed to *“look at it”*? In *faith, truly*

believing that God would allow those who looked – in faith – to live!



In John chapter 3 Jesus drew a parallel between the snake on the pole and Himself on the cross.

- Both were blessings from God (*no one deserved either blessing!*)!
- Both were lifted up (*one on the pole, one on the cross!*)!
- Both were sources of life (*one for physical life, one for eternal life!*)!



- Both shower God’s blessing upon those who *truly believe!*

Therefore, *truly believing is important!*

In reference to Himself, Jesus said: *“... whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”* (16) Since we all want *“eternal life,”* notice again what Jesus said:

- He used the word: *“whoever,”* which literally means *“all”* or *“everyone.”* In other words, *no one is excluded;* all who *truly believe* have what God has promised!
- Next, let us realize that belief or faith *must have an object;* therefore, Jesus said: *“whoever believes in Him”* Jesus is the object of our faith; *we believe in Him!*
- Jesus said that those who believe *“should not perish...”* *That is good news!* Though we have sinned, thus we deserve to perish – *just like those who spoke against God in the days of Moses* – God doesn’t want us to perish; that’s why He gave His Son so that all who *truly believe in Jesus* may have His *gift of “eternal life.”*

This may help you better understand God’s gift to us: In an old Dennis the Menace cartoon, Dennis and his little friend Joey are leaving Mrs. Wilson’s house, their hands full of cookies. Joey says: *“I wonder what we did to deserve this.”* Dennis answers: *“Look, Joey. Mrs. Wilson gives us cookies not because we’re nice, but because she’s nice.”*

What does it Mean to Believe?

To have **FAITH!** *But what is faith?* Here’s a good definition: **Forsaking All I Trust Him!**

- **Forsaking All** – To forsake, *in this definition of faith,* means to *“leave all,” “desert all,” “abandon all”* – all trust, all confidence in who we are (*good people*) and what we have done (*good things*) for eternal life!
In summary, Forsaking All is putting **no trust for heaven** in any thing I have done!
- **I Trust Him** – Remember:
 - Jesus is God’s Son!
 - Jesus lived and died for you and me and all!
 - Jesus is the object of our faith, *the One in whom we trust:*
 - *Not just in general!*
 - *Not just for everything in this life!*
 - **But** for eternal life, *for our entrance into heaven!*
- **In summary, I Trust Him** is putting **all trust for heaven** in my Lord Jesus Christ!

What else does it mean to believe? To have Knowledge, Agreement, and Trust (KAT)!

- **Knowledge** – God enables us to *know the truth!*
- **Agreement** – God enables us to *agree with the truth!*
- **Trust** – God enables us to *trust in Jesus as our Savior!*