

Have we ever come across people who say they believe in God, yet when asked further to explain what it means to them, they'll come up with answers such as "It's the Man upstairs", or "God is the universe"? Then, there are those who profess to be Christians and will describe God as the One they accepted in their lives years ago, but it seems to stop there as their life in no way emulate what Christ described as His true followers.

The dictionary defines "To believe" as to accept something as true after consideration, resulting in a firm conviction as to its reliability of fact. If we applied this to believing in God, it clearly means then that it is to accept as fact whatever God says in His Word, what He has proven to us through Christ.

Taking this at face value, wouldn't it drive a person who says they believe in God to seek to know what God actually desires and requires from us to have eternal life in His presence? Jesus in John 5:24 said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

Shouldn't we therefore study His Word, so we can put our hearts and actions where our words are?



Believing in Christ as Savior should, without the shadow of a doubt, translate into making Christ Lord over our lives. In essence Christ becomes the power and authority to whom we submit in obedience and serve. That actually translates into adopting a new life whereby we now follow the ruler, Christ, as Lord.

Jesus clearly told Nicodemus in John 3:3, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Then, to be born again is not simply a feeling, or a momentary decision to accept Christ, but rather it means to start a new life, with obviously Christ at the very center of this new life, to learn from, obey and follow.

Paul in Romans 10:17 said, "So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." In simple words, faith is the basic essence for our belief in God, and therefore our most intense desire should be to seek to discover, learn and apply what God wants from us as His true believers.

Doesn't being born again imply we are starting a new life... in Christ? The true believer isn't one who says "I accepted Christ", but rather the one who says Christ has accepted me because I have repented and surrendered my life to Him. After all, who's the ruler?



How many times in our lives have we known the right thing to do, and yet we chose to follow our flesh? In other words, our hearts tell us to go in one direction, but we chose to follow the flesh, and the result always comes down to have a guilty conscience.

Can we say we believe in God and Christ and live in complete opposition to what Christ taught us? Wouldn't that be serious hypocrisy and an insult to our Lord? Paul in Eph 5:8-10 said, "For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord."

In all truth, believing in Christ goes beyond doing what we know is right. We must also grow in our faith, learn and discover what all His teachings requires from us, so we can get to know the whole truth and live like the Lord says we must. Again Paul said in Eph 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

We sure didn't pass from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God to live like the world, right? Do we mean it when we say we believe in God and Christ, do we?



What is the will of God for our lives? Additionally, what is the proof that we really believe in Him, in His Son, who gave it all for us, so we could have eternal life?

We hear people say they believe in God and Christ, yet the belief is simply in words and not in attitude to seek and obey Christ at His Word. James 2:19 put this evident here, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" Paul also addressed the "walk VS the talk"; "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?"

Paul added this warning in Gal 6:7, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." Then the apostle John added, "In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother." (1John 3:10)

The true essence of Christianity is found in Christ, His living Word transforming us into a renewed believer through the power of the Holy Spirit. How is that working in our life right now? How is our walk with the Lord?