

***"Circumcision is nothing and
uncircumcision is nothing, but
keeping the commandments
of God is what matters."***

1 Corinthians 7:19

***BELIEVE IN GOD...
OR BELIEVE GOD?***

How does the Word of God define what true belief in God and Christ encompass?

Revelation 22:14, "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."

John 1:12-13, "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

As such:

James 2:18-19, "Someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"

In Jesus' own words:

John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

John 6:29, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

Why?

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

Therefore:

1 John 2:24, "Let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father."

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*"So then faith comes by hearing,
and hearing by the Word of God."*

Romans 10: 17

THE ONE & ONLY SECURE SOURCE OF FAITH

Where is our one and only source of truth so as to truly believe in God and not be deceived by the world?

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

What's more?

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Proverbs 30:5, "Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him."

Psalms 119:160, "The entirety of Your word *is* truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever."

Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

Psalms 119:105, "Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

The reason why:

Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."

As such Jesus said:

Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

Therefore:

James 1:22, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

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THE CLEAR COMMAND

Jesus said to him,
“I am the way, the truth,
and the life. No one comes
to the Father except
through Me.” John 14:6

How does scripture clearly command us to truly believe in Christ to inherit eternal life?

Acts 16:31, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

1 John 3:23, “And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us.”

Why?

Romans 10:9, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

As such Jesus clearly said:

John 3:5, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

John 3:36, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 5:24, “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.”

John 6:29, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

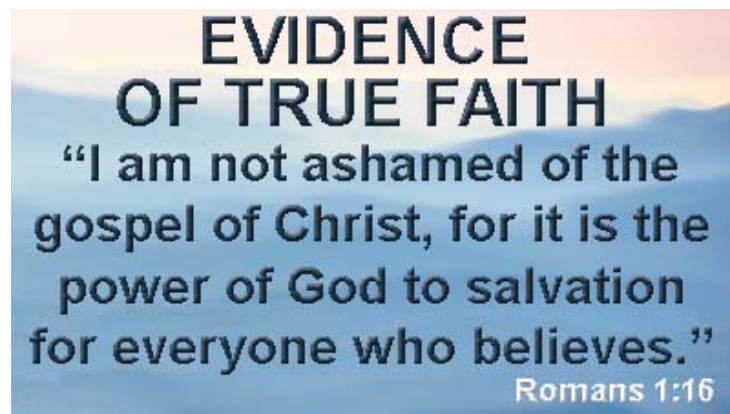
John 6:47, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”

Therefore:

John 8:24, “I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”

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How is true belief in God and Christ evidenced in the life of a believer?
John 15:5, “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Why?

John 15:4, “As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

As such:

John 15:10, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

1 John 3:24, “He who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.

1 John 2:6, “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

What’s more?

1 John 3:6, “Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.”

2 John 1:9, “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”

Therefore:

1 John 2:28, “Abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”

1 John 3:18, “Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

And as Jesus clearly said:

John 15:9, “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”

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What does true commitment to follow Christ imply in a believer's life? Philippians 2:5-8 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross."

As such Jesus said:

Matthew 16:25 "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

The purpose being:

John 20:31 "That believing you may have life in His name."

The reward being:

John 14:2-3 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also."

The warning being:

James 2:14 "What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?"

Therefore:

Romans 8:1 "*There is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

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What does following Christ imply?

John 12:26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also."

Why?

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

And as such Jesus said:

John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 10:27, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

John 8:31-32 "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 15:14 "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

Luke 11:28, "Blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

As such:

Matthew 10:38 "He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

What's more?

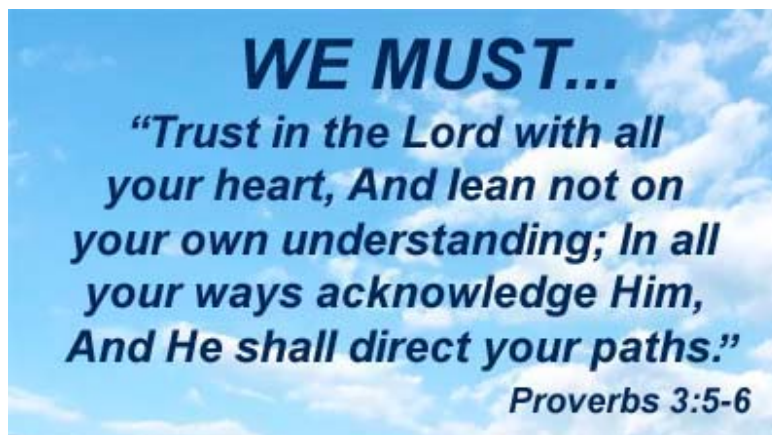
1 Peter 2:21 "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

Therefore:

Hebrews 12:1 "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

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How does trusting God energize a true believer in following Christ?
Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

Why?

2 Timothy 1:12, "I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."

The reason Jesus said:

John 12:26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

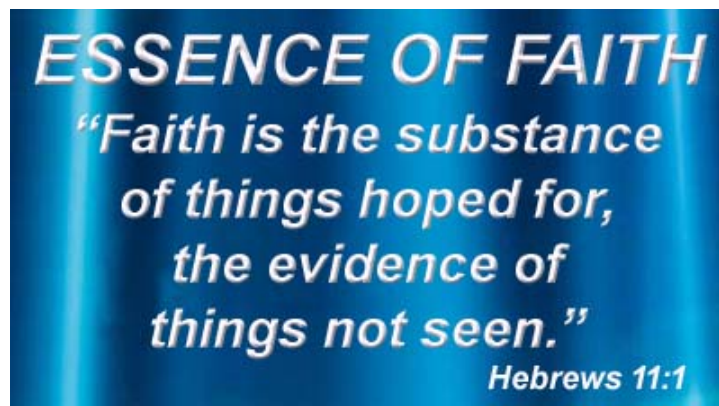
What's more?

Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Therefore:

Philippians 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

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Why must we have faith in God as opposed to simply hope for the best?

Hebrews 11:6 "Without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

How does one build faith in God?

Romans 10:17 "Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

As such:

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life."

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 "If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

What's more?

1 Peter 1:3-4 "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."

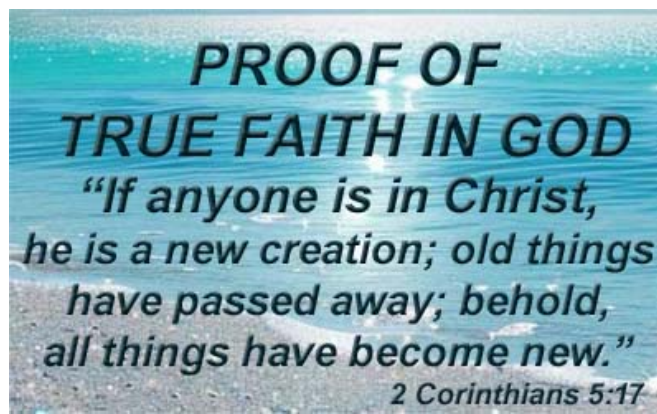
Therefore:

1 Peter 1:13 "Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Why?

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

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How does one become a true witness for Christ through his life?

2 Peter 1:5-9 "Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness."

The reason Jesus said:

John 8:31-32 "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

As such:

Hebrews 5:9 "He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."

1 John 3:24 "He who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him."

James 2:17 "Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Why?

James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

What's more?

Hebrews 3:14 "We have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end."

Therefore:

Colossians 3:17 "Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

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