

What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

As such, why should we believe in Christ as the Son of God?

In Jesus' own words:

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."

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."

Therefore, as a believer:

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."

What's more?

1 John 5:4, "Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

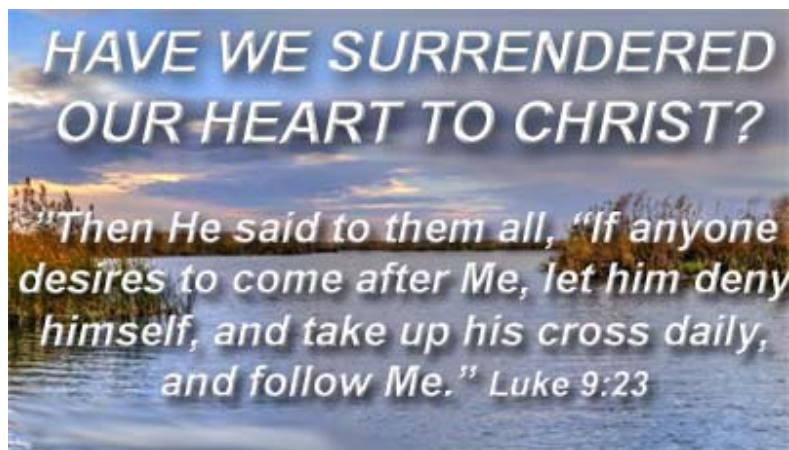
Therefore:

Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

1 Corinthians 16:13, "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

How anchored is my faith in God right now, so that I live to follow Christ, the Savior of the world?

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What does believing in Christ as Savior really imply?

John 15:5-6, "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. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned."

Why?

Luke 9:24, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."

As such:

Romans 8:6, "The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace."

Even knowing the sufferings to come, how powerfully did Jesus surrender His will to the Father?

Matthew 26:39, "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*."

Therefore:

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."

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How did Jesus clearly teach us that believing in Him requires that we follow Him?

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 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

Matthew 16:24, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

John 12:26, “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

As such:

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

John 8:31, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”

What’s more?

Matthew 10:22, “You will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

Matthew 10:38, “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

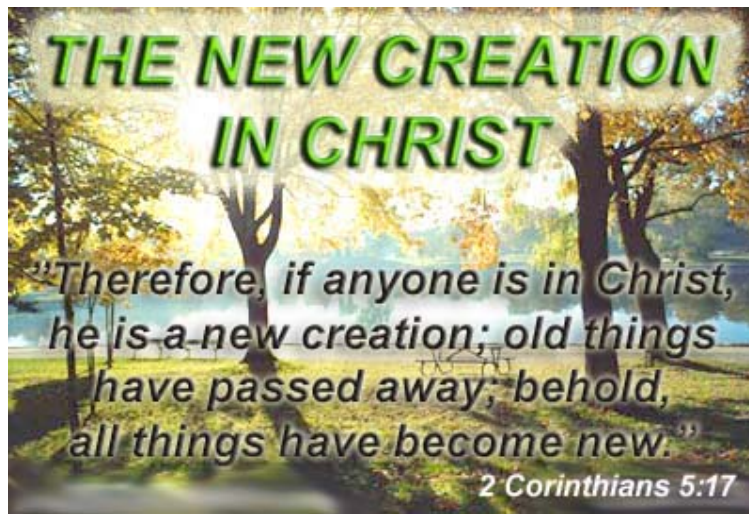
Therefore:

John 15:16, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

Clear enough?

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How does God impart a new life in a true believer?

Ezekiel 36:26-27, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

Then, how is the new creation in Christ evidenced in a believer's life?

Colossians 3:1-2, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Why?

Romans 6:4, "We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

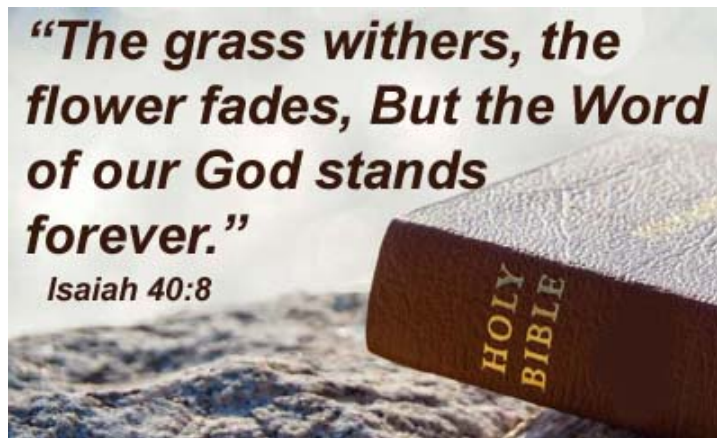
Therefore:

Ephesians 4:22-24, "Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

1 Corinthians 15:58, "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

How evident is my new creation in Christ right now?

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What is our one and only secure source of truth in God?

Hebrews 4:12, "The Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

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."

As such:

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

Psalm 119:11, "Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."

The reason why Jesus said:

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

John 5:24, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life."

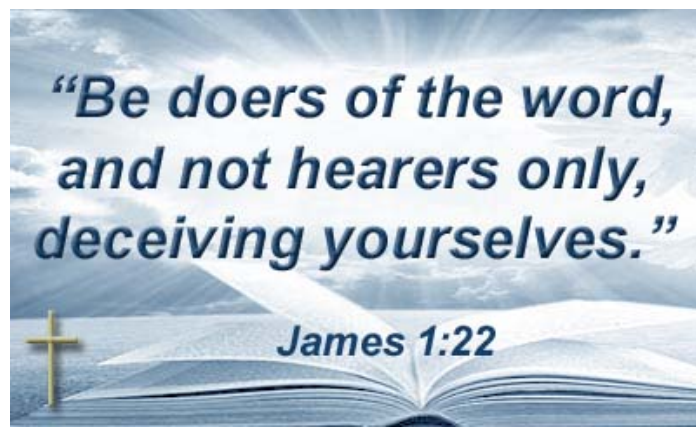
Therefore:

Joshua 1:8, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it."

Colossians 3:10, "Put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."

Is the Word of God my anchor of faith?

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We've all heard people profess certain beliefs, yet their life is in complete contrast to their words.

The reason Jesus declared:

Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

In other words, unless our actions follow our words, we may fool people, even ourselves, but we'll never fool God.

Jesus emphasized this further saying:

Luke 6:46, "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Matthew 10:38-39, "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

What's more?

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

God through the prophet said:

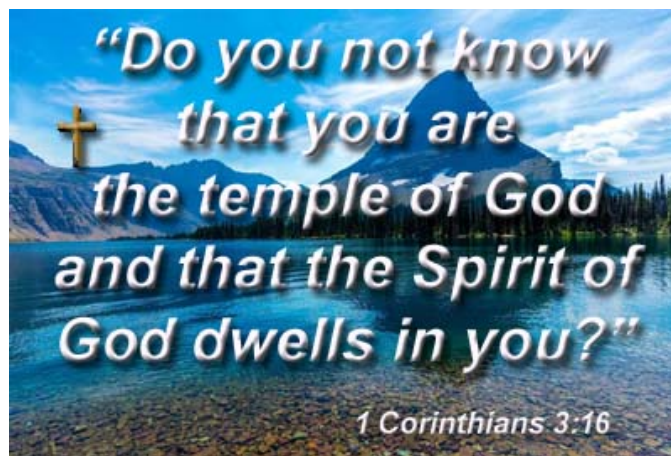
Jeremiah 7:23, "Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you."

Therefore:

Colossians 3:10, "Put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."

Do I truly abide in Christ, as Jesus clearly declared in John 14:23: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word"?

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As believers in Christ, how must we live so that the glory of God is manifested in our life?

Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Why?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

As such:

John 15:16, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain."

What's more?

John 14:26: "The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

Therefore:

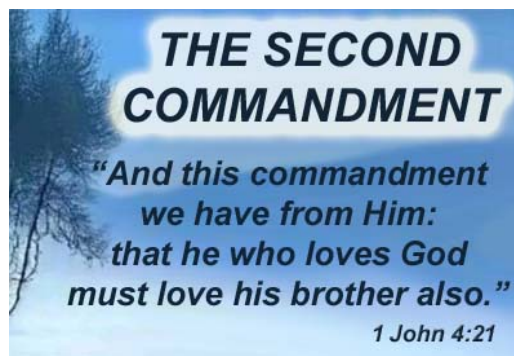
2 Timothy 2:15, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Colossians 3:23-24, "And 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."

How faithful am I to follow Christ to the glory of God?

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The most obvious testimony of love has been given to us by God through Christ.

How?

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."

As such Jesus added this command:

Matthew 22:39, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

John 15:12, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Why?

John 13:35, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1John 4:8, "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

What's more?

Matthew 5:44, "I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

Why?

Matthew 5:45, "That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

Therefore:

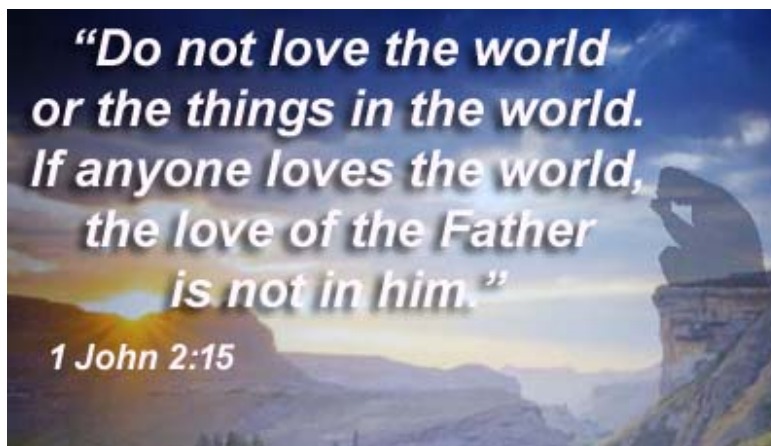
Ephesians 5:1-2, "Be imitators of God as dear children, and walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

Matthew 7:12, "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

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How did Jesus enjoin us to truly live for God and not the world?

Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Why?

Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

James 4:4, "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

Romans 8:6, "To be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace."

What's more?

2 Corinthians 5:17, If anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Therefore:

2 Corinthians 6:14, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?"

James 4:7, "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Where does my heart rest right now, in Christ or the world?

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