

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST BELIEVE THE BIBLE

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Acts 16:31

"...we shall be saved by his life." Rom. 5:10c

By Pastor Del Wray

Are you a Bible believer? Most people in your church will tell you they are Bible believers. I like to take people at their word when they tell me they are. But the more I am around church members and listen to how they talk and what they have to say, I wonder, the more; I'm tempted not to believe them. The Bible is a Book, but it is God's Book, it is the way God has chosen to communicate with man and the only way He talks to man in our day, this Age of Grace! It's more than God's book though; it's a history Book detailing the journey of man and God's work on man's behalf. It's the story of Jesus Christ, His-story! The Bible is even more than that. It's a life station; a light house, it gives life as one reads its pages it's alive, it's a cleaning agent. Ephesians tells us:

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word," Eph. 5:26

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." 1 Pet. 1:23

The Two Agents in the new birth of a soul is the "Mother" the Word of God and the "Father," the Holy Spirit; they two become ONE at birth, inseparable. So when I was saved at sixteen years of age I got a new mother and a new father. The Holy Spirit became my Lord and Teacher and the written Word of God my mother. Don't mess with Momma one preacher said, don't mess with my Bible! Man, I've been traveling all over this earth for the last fifty-five years telling everyone about my momma! And a man that won't preach out of the Bible is not only sinning against God he is slighting my mother. Stick that in your ear! Might as well you're deaf and dumb anyway! When a man tells me he believes the Bible I accept it and take it that he believes all of it. Wrong! Wrong I said to deny any part of it is to deny it all! You can't be saved and deny any part of the Bible! But here we go again! They'll believe it until they come to something they don't like and then they'll, "I don't agree with that," "that's a gray area" dumb, dumb, they'll pick and choose and if you're that way you don't believe at all. God knows your heart and it is crooked and full of unbelief. You're not saved! You've never been saved! If you're a believer you want disagree with any of it! Who am I to challenge God and especially His WORD! Not this preacher! Take it up with Him if you don't like it! You're going to haft too sooner or later! Now, it's time, let me ask you two questions?

Can a person believe in the existence of God and die and go to hell? Can a person believe what the Bible says is true and die and go to hell? Let me answer these questions with a question. Can devils be saved and go to Heaven? James tells us *"the devils also believe, and tremble"* James 2:19.

DEVILS HAVE MORE FAITH THAN MOST PEOPLE:

The devils believe there is one God. They also believe what He has said is true. They believe He has prepared hell for Satan and his angels, and they know they are going to be there. That is the reason they tremble. In like manner, a human can believe in the existence of God and believe what the Bible says is true and still die and go to hell. There is more to salvation than believing that God is and that He will reward them who diligently seek Him.

LET US SEE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:

John 4:46-53 records an account of a man who was saved by grace only after he had experienced three kinds of faith. Note that in verse 47 the nobleman exercised a historical faith; he heard that Jesus had come into Galilee, and he went to Him. Note that when Jesus told him to "go thy way; thy son liveth," the nobleman exercised an intellectual faith in believing the word that Jesus had spoken to him. But now note verse 53. When he knew that his son became well at that very hour Jesus had said "thy son liveth," this man exercised a trusting faith. He was saved right then and there.

Hebrews 11:6 verifies this position. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." The historical faith is seen in one's believing that God exists. The intellectual faith is seen in believing that God will reward them who diligently seek Him. But a person can believe that God exists and that God will save him if he diligently seeks Him and still not come to Him for salvation.

TRUE SALVATION REQUIRES THREE KINDS OF FAITH:

Romans 10:13, 14 also confirms that true salvation requires the three kinds of faith under consideration. Verse 13 declares that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Verse 14 then explains that a person will not call on God until he believes in God's existence and that God will answer his call.

My own personal testimony confirms the necessity of three kinds of faith for salvation. I have always believed in the existence of God. I have always believed what the Bible says about Jesus Christ, that He is the virgin born Son of God that He died on the cross to pay our sin debt, that He was buried and that He rose from the dead. But I was lost and on the road to hell until I was sixteen years old.

Why? Because I had never been convicted of my sin, repented and trusted the saving of my soul to Jesus Christ. I had never seen myself as God saw me, totally depraved and without any good in me. I had always judged myself in the light of the morality of other people. But the morning I saw myself in the light of God's Word, God's Righteousness I cried out for forgiveness and threw myself at the mercy of God and trusted His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to save me. He did; and what He did, He did eternally.

Folks, I know I'm a grumpy old preacher but have you ever asked God to forgive you and trusted in Jesus to save you? I do not ask, do you believe in God? Even as the devils, you can believe in God and die and go to hell. I do not ask, do you believe what the Bible says about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Even as the devils, you can believe all this and still die and go to hell. Are you willing to believe the entire Bible? Are you willing to believe all of it down deep in your soul? If yes!

Let me ask, have you ever seen yourself as God sees you, lost and condemned because of sin? Have you ever asked Him to forgive you and save you from that sin according to His Plan, the gospel? If you have not would you do so and do it right now. You will never regret doing so. I was told before I got saved that I would never regret and you know what I never have. I baptized a seventeen year old boy about three hours after he had accepted Christ as his Saviour at a dinner we had had earlier. After the service he told me something that shook me to the core, he said "I was baptized seven times before this and never knew what I know now." His face like a light bulb had just been turned on, then he said "I'm not going to haft to be baptized again." That's how to do it! That's the job well done!