

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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Believing in God

The 78th Psalm gives a detailed account of the great wonders God did for the children of Israel as he delivered them out of Egypt and kept them during their journey in the wilderness. We are reminded of the mighty plagues upon Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, the cloud which covered them by day and the pillar of fire by night. God gave water out of the rock to drink and manna from Heaven for them to eat during their journey. Yet, after all this, the Bible records, ***“...they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation.”*** Psalms 78:22.

How is it possible they could see so many miracles and receive so many blessings yet *“believe not in God?”* To comprehend this, we must see the difference between believing God exists and *“believing in God.”* Many people who believe in the existence of God do not know God. James tells us, *“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”* James 2:19. We must understand that everyone in Hell believes God exists.

To *“believe in God,”* is to possess the two components of faith. The first is to believe what God has spoken. Without this, no one can have a relationship with God. Those who do not believe

what God has spoken are an affront and offence unto him. John tells us “...*he that believeth not God hath made him a liar...*” ¹John 5:10. A person you do not believe is a person you consider to be a liar. It is the same with God. To hold what God has spoken to be untrue is the same as calling God a liar.

The second part of faith is “trust.” A person who “*believes in God,*” trusts God. First, they trust him to fulfill his word. This is why Noah built an Ark and why Abraham left the land of his fathers. God spoke, and they trusted him to do what he promised. Believing God is always based on what he has spoken. Many people use religion to justify their own lusts and ambitions, while calling it “believing God.” Remember, there is sometimes a great difference between what God has spoken and what we wished he had said.

Those who trust God also trust him when he seems to be silent. Job embodied this trust when he said, “*Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him...*” ^{Job 13:15}. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trusted God when they faced the fiery furnace. They said, “*If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. **But if not,** be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*” ^{Daniel 3:17-18}. These trusted God in whatever he chose to do, even if it meant their death.

Together, believing what God has spoken and trusting God to perform his word is what it means

to *"believe in God."* Israel saw the great miracles and experienced the great deliverances of God, but *"they believed not in God."* They did not believe what God spoke, and they did not trust him. At every opportunity they would rebel against him, believing he had brought them out of Egypt for their destruction.

It was a shock to me when I first realized that Adam and Eve did not *"believe in God."* They knew God existed. They knew God's power. They knew God's blessings. Yet, in spite of all this, when their time of testing came by the Serpent, they readily accepted that God had lied to them. They did not forget that God told them they would die if they ate of the forbidden fruit. They just believed the Serpent instead of God. Because they did not believe and trust God, these who received dominion over God's entire creation, lost it all.

The virtue of *"believing in God"* is what made Abraham so special to God. The Bible says, *"...he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."* Genesis 15:6. This virtue of faith was not found in Adam and Eve. Neither was it found in Cain who thought God should be pleased with the works of his hands. In fact, this *"believing in God"* is always a rarity wherever it is discovered. If all the good works and sacrifices that have ever been done or given were placed against a single person who *"believed in the Lord,"* God would choose the person who believed in him. He cares nothing for the works of those who do not believe and trust him. They are just another Adam or another Cain. Because he did not *"believe in*

God,” Adam lost the world. But because Abraham did *“believe in God,”* he became *“heir of the world, ...through the righteousness of faith.”*

Romans 4:13.

Today, God beckons all of us to believe in his Son, Jesus Christ. To believe in Jesus, is to believe what God has spoken about him, and to trust Jesus Christ to fulfill God’s word in you. The gospel message is called *“the record that God gave of his Son.”* ¹ John 5:10. It tells of who Christ is, and how he came to deliver us from sin and restore us unto God. When God finds one who will *“believe in him,”* he rejoices, knowing there is no limit to what he can do in them. But when he finds those who, though religious, discount his word, he passes them by. Just like Adam, they will abandon God’s truth for the lies of the Serpent.