

## **ARE WE BELIEVERS**

Did you know there are 2.6 billion Christians in the world, that's billion with a B, who all claim to be believers.

The word translated as faith in the New Testament is the Greek word *pistis*.

It's definition is:

*Pistis, (or faith) is always a gift from God, and never something that can be produced by people. In short, pistis, or "faith", for the believer is "God's divine persuasion"*

Romans 4 tells us of Abraham's faith.

Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Romans 4.19

In Genesis 15, God made a blood covenant with Abraham and promised him a son. And because of God's covenant promise, Abraham waited twenty five years for the fulfillment of that promise and although it appeared less and less likely every day, his faith grew stronger and stronger until the day that Isaac was born.

He was fully persuaded that God's covenant promise was a statement of reality to him.

Jesus spoke this parable.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 12.44

It appears from this parable that this man was fully persuaded that what he saw in the treasure was worth way more than everything that he already owned.

The Apostle Paul believed the same way as he explained his complete abandonment of his former life after his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus.

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but THAT WHICH IS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection... Phillipians 3.7

Jesus shared a similar response to His word.

He said, whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, But whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10.23

The book of Revelation reveals how the saints overcame Satan.

“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Revelation 12.11

I was reminded today of the familiar story from Daniel chapter three about, Shadrack, Meschack, and Abednego.

King Nebacanezzar erected a large golden idol, and instructed everyone in the land that when they heard the music play, they were to bow down and worship this idol. If they didn't, they would be thrown into the fire. These three Hebrew boys refused.

But because they were part of Nebacanezzar's administrative staff, he said I'll give you another chance.

They said, Don't bother with the music, we will not bow down. He said then I'll have to throw you into the fire. They said, our God will save us, but even if he doesn't we will not bow down.

I'm sure you know the rest of the story. The King saw a fourth man walking around with them in the furnace and told them to come out. They were completely unharmed.

In John 6.28, the people asked Jesus, what must we do to do the works of God. He told them they must believe in God and in the one whom He has sent.

He also said,

Truly truly I say to you, My paraphrase would be, I really, really, mean this.

He who believes in me the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these, because I go to the Father. John 14.12

Jesus said that His Holy Spirit would lead us into ALL the truth. The Greek word translated as truth actually meant reality. God's promises are statements of reality and His Holy Spirit is continually leading us into that reality. John 16.13

Jesus said I am the way, I am the truth (or the reality), and I am the life. John 14.6

At the tomb of Lazarus, his sister told Jesus, if you had come sooner my brother wouldn't have died. Jesus responded, your brother will rise. She said, oh, yes in the endtime the dead will rise, that's one of my favorite teachings. Jesus said, it aint no teaching. I am the resurrection.

The Apostle James said to his church, do you believe in God? That's great, but even the demons believe that and they're scared to death.

I believe what God is saying to me is that He wants me to trust Him and be fully persuaded that His Word is my reality.

Paul exhorted the Colossian believers,  
Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, WHO IS YOUR LIFE, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.  
Colossians 3.1

God made me a new creation and old things ARE passed away and all things ARE made new by His Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 5.17

He wants my faith, my divine persuasion, to rest in the power of God and not just in the wisdom and teachings of men or my own senses or my own experience.

Many of us say I believe, but how many of us are willing to reject every other thing and accept God's Word as our reality.

God bless you.  
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