

1 John 5:1-6

Belief Means and Changes Everything

As it concerns God, I am thoroughly convinced that belief in his Son means everything. As it concerns us, I am thoroughly convinced that belief in His Son changes everything. What God is most concerned about is what we believe. Chiefly, what we believe about His Son, Jesus the Christ. This in no way minimizes the importance of what we do. In actuality, what we do is based upon what we believe. This is why scripturally God/Jesus always starts with what one believes.

John 3:16 ““For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 20:29 “Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Mark 16:15-16 “¹⁵And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

Romans 10:14 “¹⁴How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”

Hebrews 11:6 “⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

Belief in Jesus means and changes everything. With this truth firmly established, scripturally, we turn our attention to our text.

I want to give you three observations drawn from the text that expand upon this truth.

First observation, not all are children of God. V1a “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God.” Everyone is loved by God (John 3:16), everyone is created in the image of God (Gen 1:26), but not all are children of God. I know this sounds unfair, unloving, elitist, maybe even judgmental but it is true. If it is not true let us disband immediately. We commit to proclaiming the gospel and to supporting its proclamation with all we have not because it is true only for a few. No, it is the only hope for all humanity. This is what we believe because this is what scriptures says. John makes no qualms about it. Until one comes to faith in Jesus the Christ, one cannot claim to be a son or daughter of God. Does not matter how pleasant or how good the person may be. But the good news is no one has to remain an outsider, anyone, from the most pleasant to the most destitute, can become a son or daughter of God simply through faith in God’s Son. Church, everyone is loved by God, everyone is created in the image of God, but not all are children of God.

John 1:12-13 “¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Gal 3:26-29 “²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And now that you belong to

Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you." **NLT**

Acts 4:11-12 ¹¹ "This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Second observation, true love of God is evidenced by obedience to God's word. V2-3 ² "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome." If we love God, we must obey him. Now, we fail to obey for two reasons only. Ignorance or flat-out disobedience. Ignorance is a result of not knowing and disobedience is knowing and willfully choosing not to comply or follow. Neither will fly in the face of God. As it concerns obedience to God it starts with faith in God's Son, Jesus. No one can love the Lord God with all her heart, with all her soul, and with all her mind or love his neighbor as himself apart from faith in Christ, first. True love of God is indeed evidenced only by obedience to God's word, but this becomes no one's reality until he/she first believes in Jesus the Christ.

John 6:29 "Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

John 8:31-32 ³¹ "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free

Luke 6:46-48 ⁴⁶ "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like

a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.”

Final observation, yes you can. V4-5 “⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” We are no longer prisoners to the sin nature. We are no longer under the rule of the desires of our flesh. We are no longer under the sway of the enemy, Satan. We are no longer meandering our way through life. Thru faith in Jesus the Christ we are overcomers. Thru faith in him we have been given everything we need to overcome this world, his Holy Spirit and his word. We can because Jesus did. Because he died and he rose, and in doing so has given to each of us the victory. Yes, you can.

Gal 5:16-17 “¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

2 Tim 3:16-17 “¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Church, belief in Jesus means and changes everything for those who trust in him. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

