

*THE ABC's*  
*of*  
*Becoming*  
*A Better Christian*

***BELIEVE***

## Introduction

*TO BELIEVE* in God is to possess *CONFIDENCE* in Him

*TO BELIEVE* in God is to put your *TRUST* in Him

To believe in God begins with *AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT* of His Existence

*Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)*

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who *comes to him* *MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS* and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

A constant knowledge/awareness of His Existence changes my behavior...

*What you believe affects your behavior...*

*Many People Believe There is a god.....*

*A god who heals... A god who delivers... A god who provides....*

Do you believe in a god or *The God of The Bible?*

*James 2:19 (NLT)*

19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God.  
Good for you! *Even the demons believe this*, and they tremble in terror.

Many People **BELIEVE** God enough to **COME** to Him...  
But They Struggle To **CONTINUE/KEEP BELIEVING**

All of us have **STARTED OUT BELIEVING** real strong for something,  
only to grow **discouraged** or **distracted over TIME** because we don't see **RESULTS...**

At one point, we were on fire for the things of God... **We prayed, we believed, we trusted**  
and **we even rejoiced in advance** that it would come to pass...  
But days, weeks, months, maybe even years went by **without SEEING any results...**  
In fact, sometimes our situation got worse.

**Circumstances** will always **challenge** us to **KEEP BELIEVING**

We must realize, God has not equipped us with only **START-UP FAITH...**but **SUSTAINING FAITH**  
We must **KEEP BELIEVING....** In order to **SEE RESULTS** our responsibility is to **KEEP BELIEVING...**

**Mark 5:22-24 (NIV)**

22 Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet  
23 and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. **Please come and put your hands on her so that**  
**she will be healed and live.**" 24 So Jesus went with him.

**Mark 5:35-36 (NIV)**

35 While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler.  
"Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?"  
36 **IGNORING WHAT THEY SAID,** Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; **JUST BELIEVE.**"

# God Is Aware Of Our Struggle To Continue Believing

Therefore....God Will *Provide Sufficient Evidence* For Us To Continue Believing

## Biblical Illustration

*John 20:24-29 (NKJV)*

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "*We have seen the Lord.*" So he said to them, "*Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.*" 26 *And after eight days* His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them.

Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

27 Then He said *TO THOMAS*, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. *Do not be unbelieving but believing.*" 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, *because you have seen Me, you have believed.*

***BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED.***"

The World has a saying.... "*Seeing is Believing*"

But as Believers, we ***BELIEVE EVEN WHEN WE DON'T SEE IT***

## *Every Circumstance or Situation Is Designed To Reveal Your Level Of Belief*

### *John 11:11-15 (NLT) ~ Arranged For His Disciples*

*11 Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up."*

*12 The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" 13 They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. 14 So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.*

*15 And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for NOW you will REALLY BELIEVE..."*

### *John 11:21-26 (NLT) ~ Arranged For Martha*

*21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.*

*22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask." 23 Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."*

*25 Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.*

*26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.*

*Do you believe this, Martha?"*

### *John 11:39-42 (NLT) ~ Arranged For The Community*

*39 "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible." 40 Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if*

*you believe?" 41 So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here,*

*so that they will believe you sent me."*

# Why Should I Believe?

## 1) My Belief Impacts My Community/Surroundings

*Matthew 13:54-58 (NLT)*

54 He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the synagogue, everyone was amazed and said, “Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?”

55 Then they scoffed, “He’s just the carpenter’s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. 56 All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?”

57 *And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.*

Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family.” 58 *And so he did only a few miracles there BECAUSE OF THEIR UNBELIEF.*

## Jesus May Need To *Change Your Surroundings* To Increase Your Belief

*Mark 8:22-26 (NLT)*

22 When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, and they begged him to touch the man and heal him. 23 *Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village.*

*THEN*, spitting on the man’s eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, “Can you see anything now?”

24 The man looked around. “Yes,” he said, “I see people, but I can’t see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around.” 25 Then Jesus placed his hands on the man’s eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly.

26 *JESUS SENT HIM AWAY, SAYING, “DON’T GO BACK INTO THE VILLAGE ON YOUR WAY HOME.”*

# Why Should I Believe?

## 2) My Belief Impacts My Blessing and My Breakthrough

*Matthew 9:27-29 (NLT)*

27 After Jesus left the girl's home, two blind men followed along behind him, shouting, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" 28 They went right into the house where he was staying, and Jesus asked them, "**DO YOU BELIEVE I CAN MAKE YOU SEE?**" "**YES, LORD,**" they told him, "**WE DO.**" 29 **THEN** he touched their eyes and said, "**Because of your faith, it will happen.**"

## Many People Allow **THEIR EXCUSES** To Prohibit Their Breakthrough

*John 5:6-7 (NIV)*

6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "**DO YOU WANT TO GET WELL?**" 7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

## 3) My Belief Impacts My Family

*Acts 16:30-31 (NLT)*

30 Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must **I DO** to be saved?" 31 They replied, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus** and you will be saved, **along with everyone in your household.**"

# What Is Hindering My Belief?

John 11:7-10(NLT)

7 Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go **BACK** to Judea."

8 But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there **AGAIN?**" 9 Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. **They can see because they have the light of this world.**

10 But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light."

## #1 **FEAR** ~ Don't Let **FEAR** Alter What You **BELIEVE**

- **Place To Overcome Fear** ~ God orchestrates **opportunities** for us to Believe {don't miss... because of fear}

Often we desire a **SAFE SAVIOR** who keeps us **FROM DANGEROUS SITUATIONS**  
*Belief is Developed in Danger*

## You Must Believe The Power Of HIS PRESENCE?

Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."



# What Is Hindering My Belief?

John 11:11-16 (NLT)

11 Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up."

12 The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!"

13 They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

14 So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."

15 And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, **FOR NOW YOU WILL REALLY BELIEVE**. Come, let's go see him."

16 Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

**#2 GROWTH** ~ There Are **Areas Where I Believe**.... But **Other Areas**....Not So Much...

Have You Identified Those Areas Where You **Struggle to Believe** and **Trust God**

We all have **areas of inadequacy**, when it comes to Believing

Our Prayer Should Be...

**Mark 9:24 (NIV)**

24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; **help me overcome my unbelief!**"

Thomas Response ~ Fear Has Formed/Shaped His Outcome

**John 11:16 (NLT)**

16 Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

# What Is Hindering My Belief?

John 11:3, 5-6 (NIV)

3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

5 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

6 Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

John 11:21-26 (NLT)

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.

**#3 EXPECTATIONS** ~ Your Relationship Doesn't Give **YOUR EXPECTED RESULTS**

Often **Our Frustration** is a result of **Our Expectation**

We expect God to move and respond at our command

She expected **THE GOD OF PREVENTION** to show up....

But didn't **REALLY BELIEVE** in the God of Restoration/Resurrection

Matthew 11:2-3 (NLT)

2 John the Baptist, **who was in prison**, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing.

So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, 3 "**Are you the Messiah we've been expecting,**  
or should we keep looking for someone else?"

## What Is Hindering My Belief?

John 11:27-37 (NLT)

27 “Yes, Lord,” she told him. *“I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.”* 28 Then *she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners* and told her, “The Teacher is here and wants to see you.”

29 So Mary *immediately* went to him. 30 Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. 31 When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, *THEY ASSUMED she was going to Lazarus’s grave to weep.* So they followed her there.

32 When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, *“Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”* 33 When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, *a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled.*

34 “Where have you put him?” he asked them. *They told him, “Lord, come and see.”*

35 *Then Jesus wept.*

36 The people who were standing nearby said, *“See how much he loved him!”*

37 *But some said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”*

## #4 YOUR CROWD ~ Monitor Your Crowd, That Affects What You Believe

Mark 5:38-40 (NLT)

38 When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, *Jesus saw much commotion and weeping and wailing.*

39 He went inside and asked, “Why all this commotion and weeping? *The child isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.*”

40 *The crowd laughed at him. BUT HE MADE THEM ALL LEAVE,* and he took the girl’s father and mother and his three disciples into the room where the girl was lying.

## *Conclusion*

*TO BELIEVE* in God is to possess *CONFIDENCE* in Him

To believe in God begins with *AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT* of His Existence

*WHAT YOU BELIEVE AFFECTS YOUR BEHAVIOR...*

Every Circumstance or Situation *Is Designed To Reveal* Your Level Of Belief

## *What Hinders My Belief*

*My Fear*

*My Lack of Growth*

*My Expectations*

*My Crowd*