

I Believe

John 11

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 includes 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...

Covid Example

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.

Why Should I Believe?

1) My Belief Impacts My Community

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.*

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.”

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.*”

Getting His Disciples To Believe

John 11:11-15 (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....*"

Getting Martha To Believe

John 11:21-26 (NLT)

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?"

Getting The Community To Believe

John 11:39-42 (NLT)

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.*"

What Is Hindering My Belief?

John 11:3-16 (NLT)

3 So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, “Lord, *your dear friend is very sick.*”

4 But when Jesus heard about it he said, “*Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death.*

No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.”

5 So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 he stayed where he was for the next two days.

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.”

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.”

What Is Hindering My Belief?

John 11:3-5 (NLT)

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5 So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 he stayed where he was for the next two days.

Principle #1 ~ Believe The Divine Providence Of God

- *The Plan of God* ~ To Prosper, Not to harm, To Give Hope and a Future ~ Jeremiah 29:11
 - *The Glory of God* ~ God's Glory is revealed in our difficult moments

Biblical Example

John 9:1-3 (NIV)

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "*but this happened SO THAT THE WORK OF GOD MIGHT BE DISPLAYED in his life.*"

Recall The "*SO THAT MOMENTS IN YOUR LIFE*"

I went through the rough season, so that....

I went through the divorce, so that...

I went through the pain, so that...

DID GOD GET GLORY OUT OF YOUR SO THAT SITUATION

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."

Principle #2 ~ 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

Trust That **THE LIGHT** Will Overcome Fear ~ Do you believe **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."

1 John 4:18 (NIV)

18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

What Is Hindering My Belief?

John 11:11-16 (NLT)

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

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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.”

Principle #3 ~ 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?

Emphasis When Dealing With The Disciples

Principle #1 ~ Believe The Divine Providence of God

Principle #2 ~ Do Not Let FEAR Alter What You Believe

Principle #3 ~ There Are Areas Where I Believe.... But Other Areas....Not So Much...

Getting Martha To Believe

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.*

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?"

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.**"

Principle # 4 ~ Your Relationship Doesn't Give You **YOUR DESIRED 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 11:22-26

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 *I Know*, "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?"

Principle #5 ~ What We KNOW vs. What WE NEED?

Martha **KNEW** about *Resurrection in the bye and bye*, but failed to **TRUST** in the *here and now!!!*

Many *believe God for Salvation*, but fail to *believe he can open a door tomorrow?*

Mark 10:28-30 (NIV)

28 Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"

29 "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to *receive a hundred times as much in this present age* (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields--and with them, persecutions)
and in the age to come, eternal life.

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?”*

Principle #6 ~ Monitor Your Company, 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.

What Is Hindering My Belief?

John 11:38-42 (NIV)

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

*Principle #7 ~ In The Midst Of Disappoint,
We Need **REASSURANCE** of Who and What We Believe*

Biblical Example

Mark 5:34-36 (NIV)

34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

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.**"*

Conclusion

Principle #1 ~ *Believe* The Divine Providence of God

Principle #2 ~ Do Not Let FEAR Alter What You *Believe*

Principle #3 ~ There Are Areas Where I *Believe*.... But Other Areas....Not So Much...

Principle # 4 ~ Your Relationship Doesn't Give You **YOUR DESIRED RESULTS**

Principle #5 ~ What We **KNOW** vs. What WE **NEED**?

Principle #6 ~ Monitor Your Company, That Affects What You *Believe*

Principle #7 ~ In The Midst Of Disappoint,
We Need **REASSURANCE** of Who and What We *Believe*

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