

“Christianity Explained: How Do You Become A Christian? (Part 3d) [Believe IN Jesus]”

Here’s today’s emphasis: *a person becomes a Christian by believing IN Jesus*. I love creeds and doctrinal statements because they help to summarize and capture our core beliefs in succinct statements. *But my faith is not in a creed or doctrinal statement, my faith is IN Jesus*. I love the Church, because the Lord established it and it’s the Body and Bride of Christ. *But my faith is not in the Church, my faith is IN Jesus*. I love Pastors, and I believe they should be respected, esteemed and honored. *But my faith is not in Pastors, my faith is IN Jesus*. I believe we’re supposed to love, trust, forgive, and do life with other people. *But my faith is not in other people, my faith is IN Jesus*. I love the USA, and I am proud to be an American. *But my faith is not in my American heritage, or even in the U.S. Constitution, my faith is IN Jesus*. I believe that we are called to pray for governing rulers and for all who are in authority. *But my faith is not in a politician, my faith is IN Jesus*. I know that we are not saved by works, but there’s plenty that we are called to do after salvation (i.e. die daily to self, obey His commandments, be a doer of the Word, etc.). *But my faith is not in works, my faith is IN Jesus*.

Consider these four things that believing IN Jesus will result in. First of all, to believe IN Jesus means *you believe in the person of Jesus*. This means that your faith is IN Him and Him alone. This means that you believe that Jesus is who the Bible says He is. Secondly, to believe IN Jesus means *you believe in the words of Jesus* as they are recorded in the Holy Bible. By studying and adhering to the words of Jesus you begin to understand who He is in His own words. You also fulfill the Great Commission, because part of the Great Commission is to teach others to obey everything Jesus commanded us (see Matthew 28:20). By studying and adhering to the words of Jesus we affirm our conviction that the Bible is the Word of God, because Jesus validates the whole of Scripture as authoritative. We also live the way God wants us to live by making the words of Jesus our Guidebook for living (even the hard and difficult sayings, like loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us [see Matthew 5:44]).

Third, to believe IN Jesus means *you believe in the works of Jesus*. Jesus said that His works and miracles should lead us to believe His words (see John 14:10-11). Study everything that Jesus did, and then go and do likewise. Studying and believing in the works and miracles of Jesus results in faith. The Apostle John wrote in John 20:30-31: “*And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*” We should believe that everything Jesus did during His time here on earth, He continues to do today (and everyday into the future), because He’s alive and He’s eternally the same (see Hebrews 13:8). Fourth, to believe IN Jesus means *you believe in the heavenly and eyewitness testimony about Jesus*. At Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration God the Father, in a voice from heaven, said that

Jesus was His Son, whom He loved, and He was well-pleased with Him. We are wise to also believe the eyewitness testimony of Jesus' disciples that is recorded in the New Testament (like Matthew and John), and eye-witness testimony that was meticulously gathered and written down by others (like Luke and Mark). We should tell others what Jesus has done for us, hoping that they, too, will put their faith in Jesus. But we should also point people to the Holy Scriptures, where they can "hear" and "see" and encounter Jesus for themselves.

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Have you put your faith IN Jesus, and believed IN the name of God's Son for the salvation of your eternal soul?
2. Look up the following Scriptures and notice how often they talk about *believing IN Jesus*: John 3:14-18, 35-36; John 6:29; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 2:13; 1 John 3:23, 5:13.
3. Study Jesus' teachings, words, commands and sayings.
4. Do you believe that every recorded miracle and work of Jesus in the Bible happened exactly the way the Bible says it happened?
5. Tell others about the transformation that has happened in your life since believing IN Jesus.