

HOW FAR DOES YOUR BELIEF IN GOD GO?

Joshua 24:14-24

Matthew 11:26

Introduction: Just about anybody you ask "do you believe in God?" will answer that they do. Some believe that there is a God out there somewhere. Some believe that there is a God that got things started then left to do something else. Some believe that there is a God but has interest in only certain people. Some believe that there is a God but nobody can get to know Him because He is too holy. Most people believe something about God.

When Joshua confronted the people of Israel about God, they all said that they would serve no other and that God was their God. So then, what should be the attitude of those who say they believe the God of the Bible is the only true God?

I. IS THERE AN ATTITUDE OF GODLY FEAR (RESPECT?)

1. If people say they believe there is a God, they why are they so unconcerned about spiritual and eternal things?
 - Why are many so open with disbeliefs about heaven, hell, sin, satan, angels, Jesus?
 - Why do so many who say they are Christians take the things of God so lightly?
 - *"...There is no fear of God before their eyes..." (Romans 3:18)*
2. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge..." (Proverbs 1:7)*
 - There was a time when a believer was called a "God-fearing man/woman." That's just not heard anymore. Why not?
 - *"...There is no fear of God before their eyes..."*
 - To believe in the God of the Bible will cause Godly fear (respect).

II. IS THERE AN ATTITUDE OF COMPLETE OBEDIENCE?

1. People will either glory in themselves or in God. They will live either to serve and please themselves or will seek to serve and please the Lord. *"...man cannot serve two masters."*
 - People are filled with pride, self-sufficiency, own importance.
2. The Pharaoh of Egypt said, *"...who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD neither will I let Israel go..." (Exodus 5:2)*
 - The God of Israel need not be obeyed, feared or served. He was a nobody, just another God in the eyes of this man.
3. To see God as He really is leads one to the recognition of littleness and nothingness before God. A Godly fear is natural.
 - No longer will a person pick and choose which of God's commands he/she will obey or which meet with his/her approval or disapproval.
4. To believe that God is the true and only God, that God is the God of the Bible can lead only in one direction for that believer - **COMPLETE OBEDIENCE.**

III. IS THERE AN ATTITUDE OF TOTAL RESIGNATION?

1. To believe that God is the God of the Bible will end all complaining by the believer.
 - It is only natural to complain about affliction and losses, things one had the heart set on.
 - It is only natural to think that one's possessions are his/hers unconditionally.
 - It is only natural to think that one is entitled to success in life.
 - It is only natural to think that one deserves to be surrounded by a happy family, good health, adequate finances, etc.
 - When any of these things are interrupted, it is only natural to cry out against God.
 - But complaining will cease **IF/WHEN** one believes in the God of the Bible.
2. To believe that God is the God of the Bible will allow God to do whatever He wills with the believer's life.
 - To allow poverty, sickness, family problems, even death.
 - *"...shall not the Judge of all the earth do right...?"*
3. Eli, priest of God, had two terrible sons. God told Samuel, a young lad, that Eli's sons were going to be killed. Eli replied: *"...it is the LORD, let Him do what seemeth Him good.."*
4. Job was well blessed by God, but within a matter of days Job lost everything but his wife. Job said: *"...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord..."*
5. To believe that God is the God of the Bible will cause the believer to hold every plan and desire up to God's will. *"...Go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go into such a city and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain. Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say **IF THE LORD WILL, we shall live and do this or that.** (James 4:13-15)*
 - It is for God to say where we shall live, and to say the circumstances we are to live in and it is for God to say how long we shall live.

IV. IS THERE AN ATTITUDE OF DEEP THANKFULNESS AND JOY?

1. To believe that God is the God of the Bible will cause the believer to *"..give thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."*
 - It's easy to be thankful when all is well, but when things go wrong, it isn't that easy.
 - Job is the believer's example of how to handle loss.
2. *"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)*

V. IS THERE AN ATTITUDE OF ADORING WORSHIP?

1. To believe that God is the God of the Bible will cause the believer to be so overwhelmed that he/she will bow before God in adoring worship as the angels in heaven do constantly.
 - God is infinitely wise and good and can do no wrong. God is always the same and wants only that which is good for the believer.
2. *"...Even so Father, for so it seemeth good in Thy sight..."*

CONCLUSION:

1. Do you believe in God? Which God? If the God of the Bible, then you believe in the one and only true God.
2. If you believe in the one and only true God, the God of the Bible, then what has been your attitude toward Him?
3. Just about everybody says they believe in "God." However their attitude and actions indicate that they don't **REALLY** believe in the God of the Bible for if they did then they would:
 - Fear Him
 - Obey Him
 - Totally give all to Him
 - Thankful and full of Joy
 - Adore and Worship Him
4. Talk is cheap. True belief puts "feet" to what is said.