

IS BELIEVING IN GOD ENOUGH?

1 Peter 1:21-23

Introduction: It seems that just about every Church that identifies itself with Christ has added or taken away some things that other Churches haven't. So, is believing in God not enough or is it enough?

The Bible teaches that salvation began before the first man came along and that all that was necessary for man's salvation was done by God's Son, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and that the blood of Jesus Christ actually cleanses the believer from all his/her sins. So what else does a person need?

I. SALVATION

1. **v21** - It is God's plan of salvation that brings salvation.
 - The Holy Spirit convicts people of their sins.
 - People are free to choose whether to believe or not.
 - Those who believe are indwelt with the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit brings the believer into God's family.
 - The believer experiences what God calls a "new birth" into a new way of life.
2. Proof that the sin question was settled was by God raising Jesus Christ from the grave.
 - Jesus Christ is the first of a new "race"
 - All believers in Jesus Christ will be like Him, thus a part of the new "race."
 - Faith is a day by day belief but when one was saved, he/she remains saved.
 - "Hope" is belief that what hasn't happened will happen, thus a trust in God.

II. BELIEF-OBEDIENCE-LOVE

1. **v22** - There have been countless numbers who have believed in God through the ages, but never were saved.
 - The Jews believed in God but refused to believe in God's Son, Jesus.
 - It is the same in the world today, countless believe in God but reject His Son, Jesus.
 - Satan believes that God is and also that Jesus Christ is, yet he rejects both.
2. Being obedient to God has been done through the ages also.
 - The Old Testament Covenant, made up of laws was kept.
 - Jesus brought a New Covenant but people didn't want to accept His new ways.
 - If any are obedient to God, they will accept Jesus Christ.
3. The Holy Spirit brings conviction to a person's heart about the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Upon being convicted in his/her heart, that person must choose to believe in Jesus or not.
 - It is the only thing one can do for him/herself concerning his/her salvation.
4. Belief in Jesus causes one to have a sincere, true love for his/her fellow believers.
 - There is no pretense in a believer's love for another believer.
 - It is easier to love some better than others and if continued, cliques form in the Church.
 - A pure heart is the source of one's reason for acting or doing what Jesus would do.
 - The new birth removes all the old distinctions and for once everyone is equal.

III. BEING BORN AGAIN

1. **v23** - Everyone is born on earth through human parents the same way and is born with the ability to survive on this earth and along with that survival instinct is also a nature to sin which leads to corruption of one's life and ultimately death and eternal separation from God.
2. The second birth (born again), happens upon one's belief in God's Son, Jesus Christ because the blood of Jesus has cleansed that person's sins and the Holy Spirit indwells that person permanently with all this happening because of God's grace.
 - The believer is given eternal life immediately upon belief in Jesus and will have a new body to live his/her eternal life in heaven.
3. Jesus Christ IS the Word of God - ***John 1:1, 14*** -
 - Jesus was before Abraham.
 - At the cross Jesus brought in a New Covenant - was raised from the dead into a new everlasting human body and is presently interceding for all those who have believed in Him and will one day come back for all who have believed in Him.

CONCLUSION:

1. Salvation is God's plan and comes when a person obeys God when God says to believe in Jesus Christ.
2. The only step toward God to take by anyone concerning salvation is to believe in Jesus Christ.
3. ONLY by believing in Jesus Christ will one's soul be cleansed.
4. A true believer will love ALL his/her fellow believers - EQUALLY.
5. The results of one's first birth is sin and death.
6. The results of one's second birth is freedom, forgiveness and eternal life, all by God's Grace.