When Believing Isn't Enough

Greg Kline · John 3:16–21

INTRODUCTION

- For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- How do we reconcile that with scriptures that talk about the idea of believing and yet having to do other things?
- Whether it be repentance or confession or baptism, or living a faithful life to Jesus.

1 Believers Who Did Nothing

John 12:42–43; Mark 5:7; James 2:19

- Many even of the authorities believed in him. But for fear of the Pharisees, they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue.
- For they love the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.
- No one would say that you can be saved while denying Jesus to gain glory from man instead of seeking to please God.
- What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?
- But it said in James chapter 2, even the demons believed and trembled.
- There are believers in the scriptures who did nothing, and nobody argues that the demons were saved.

2 Believers Who Do the Wrong Thing

Matthew 7:21–23; Romans 10:1–4; Hebrews 3:12–14

- Not everyone who says to me, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven. But he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter.
- It's not about what I think or how you feel. It's about what Jesus has clearly said.
- They were believers in the law. But they didn't do what it said.
- Paul was all in and serving God zealously. The problem was he wasn't serving God the way God demanded.
- Jesus has to be believed in, and that doesn't just mean believing that we have somebody who is there to save us, it means believing in somebody that we need to obey.
- If you can fall away from the living God, you must be then with the living God.

3 A Belief That Pleases God

Acts 2:36–41; Hebrews 11:13–19; Acts 22:16

- Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
- What did this belief do? It radically changed their lives.
- God is not ashamed to be called their God. Why? They believed in him and they did whatever it took.

- By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac.
- If anybody ever believed in Jesus, if belief saved, it would have been Saul.
- Why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.

MY NOTES