



ARE YOU REALLY A BELIEVER?

By Bill Subritzky

Many people say that they believe in Jesus Christ. For some it is an intellectual experience where they believe He could have lived on this earth. For others it is something that they speak out of their mouth but do not really believe in their heart. Others say that they believe in Him, but only have a vague idea of what Jesus Christ is all about.

For years I went to church and went through all the traditional prayers, listened to the sermons and went home not much better for the experience. A lot of what I heard went in one ear and out the other.

My life reflected that situation. As a lawyer and businessman I sought to act with integrity but I had no real relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. Nor did I believe that I needed such a relationship.

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

The word "believes" in the original language means "cling to, obey, and trust". If we are going to be saved and have eternal life with God, we must cling to Christ, obey and trust Him.

In order to understand what God requires of us in this regard, we need to read the Bible daily and spend time with Him in prayer and meditation. In this way, God will speak to us, guide us and answer our prayers as we obey Him, trust Him and cling to Him.

As we do this, Scriptures such as John 14:12-14 can come to life for us. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (John 14:12-14.)

Just think about it, Jesus said to the believer, that is the person who trusts Him, obeys Him and clings to Him, "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (John 14:14.)

Obviously, such a person will be aware what the Bible says about sin and what it really is. It includes unbelief, unforgiveness, dishonouring parents, sexual sin including sex outside of marriage, homosexuality, idolatry, adultery, sodomy, drunkenness, cursing others and using bad language. The Bible says that without holiness no one will see God.

God is fully aware that we cannot accomplish the above in our own strength. That is why He has sent the Holy Spirit to live in us, to guide us, to convict us and show us His life and His offer of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Before we can really get the full power of God in our lives through the Holy spirit we must repent from all sin, be born-again, filled with the Holy Spirit and follow God with all our heart.

In today's world few people are prepared to do this. They take the easy way out, live for the day, enjoy themselves unaware that their breath is but a vapour and that tomorrow may never come for them.

Jesus Christ said we have to take up our cross and follow Him. This means crucifying many of our fleshly desires and putting God first in our life. The reward is eternal life with God, peace and joy. Are you really ready to trust, obey and cling to Him? God is watching.

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