

## “Just Believe”

“Written by Deacon Oliver Daley”

I have heard the saying many, many times and maybe you have heard it too, “Just Believe.” When the question is asked, “How one can be saved?” I hear it echoed all the time, “Just Believe.” Yes, just Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and everything will be alright. Just believe that God raised Him from the dead and all of your sins will be forgiven. Just believe that He lives and reigns forevermore, and you shall be saved...“Just Believe.” Like water, we like taking the path of least resistance. Preaching “Just Believe” sounds easy and comforting so many quickly adopt the “Just Believe” mentality and feel completely satisfied. Some utilize the following scriptures to affirm the “Just Believe” gospel, but in so doing, end up misleading the “believer.”

Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;”

John 3:16 “... Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life;”

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life;”

Acts 16:31 “... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”

Belief (Faith) is an essential ingredient to have a recipe that is received at the Masters table; but belief in itself is incomplete. Belief may be the flour ingredient in a cake recipe if you will, but we also need water, eggs, oil, and most importantly...Fire! James records it best in **James 2:14-26**; “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone...I will shew thee my faith by my works... the devils also believe, and tremble...**Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**” Works is the Fire required to make our belief (faith) ingredient complete. Belief by itself is incomplete and insufficient. The writer James confirmed it ... the devils believe also! What separates mankind from the devils? Devils have no repentance and are void of the works of God, yet they believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. In Matthew 8:28-30 we find the devils knew and believed that Jesus was the Son of God. For added proof read also Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 3:10-12, Luke 4:41, and Luke 8:28.

We can't receive the scriptures that please us, and reject the ones that declare our unrighteous ways, shining a bright light on our short comings. Isaiah writes, “Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little ...” (Isaiah 28:9-11). “Just Believe” is not precept upon precept; “Just Believe” is not line upon line; and “Just Believe” by itself is dead (not life giving). “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21). On the other hand, Paul writes in Romans 10:14, “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” We preach “**Believe and do His will**”. Jesus' disciples asked, in Matthew 19:24-26, Who then can be saved? Jesus answered, “**With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**”

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