

Being in the Spirit of Christ

(BELIEVING AND TRUSTING IN HIM IS OUR GOAL)

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(Rom.8:1) "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are 'in' Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." (Some writings say)"those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not live according to the sinful nature, but according to the Spirit". (Vs.2) "because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life 'set me free' from the law of sin and death."(that means, to not be trusting on efforts of self for things in this life), but instead, 'set free' from trusting on self-efforts, rather, to always be found to be meeting God's requirement, to be trusting and (believing) in the 'Spirit of Life', Jesus Christ, .. "The One whom God has sent"(to redeem us from those sins of the self-life). That is why it is so important to understand what it means to be 'believing', 'in Christ'. So, we should ask ourselves, "what is 'believing'?"

The Bible teaches that to be a believer in Christ is "above all" the one thing (the 'condition') God requires of everyone (John 6:29). It is very important then that we accurately and scripturally 'define' what it means to "believe" on Christ". To have faith in or "trust" on, someone, or some thing, or plan, is to "believe" in that person, thing, or plan. Jesus wanted His followers to understand that to be a true believer in 'Him', means to have true faith and trust in 'Him' (instead of some human plan or person). Only those who trust in His Name, become children of God. (John 1:12)"But all who have received Him, to them ..that is, to those who trust in His name ..He has given the privilege of becoming children of God;" That is the 'condition' or "requirement" that Jesus gave to His followers (which includes us), "that you

should be believers in Him whom He has sent."(John 6:29)

And God spoke very plainly in the same way(Heb.10:38-39) "But it is by faith that My righteous servant shall live; and if he shrinks back, My soul takes no pleasure in him. But we are not people who shrink back and perish but are among those who believe and gain possession of their souls."

So, to obediently 'trust' in the Son of God, is 'believing', and it is being 'in Christ'. "Trust in God, trust in Me also", Jesus said, (John 14:1). Jesus meant that to be as an instruction (or command) for the believer to obey, and coming from the only One who could save us from our sins of a self-nature (which always misplaces our trust). It was meant to be taken to heart for those who truly want to be 'in- Christ' (not to just be read in passing). Jesus told the unbelieving Jews who refused to trust in Him, and, who persecuted Him because He had healed a man on a Sabbath day, "The man who withholds honor from the Son, withholds honor from the Father who sent Him."(John 5:23)

"Nor have you His word dwelling within you(he said), for you 'refuse' to believe Him whom He has sent."(John 5:38). And (Vs.39-40, He said), "You search the Scriptures, because you suppose that in them you will find the Life of the Ages; and it is those Scriptures that yield testimony concerning me; yet you are unwilling to come to me that you may have life."

Jesus was indicating the 'free-will choice' that each one of us have, ..to be willing to accept and believe His words and to follow in obedient faith,...or (as Jesus said) ..to be unwilling, and so, to, "refuse to believe Him whom God has sent."

(John 12:46-47), "I have come like light into the world, (Jesus said), in order that no one who believes in me may remain in the dark." (Rather, they will receive 'spiritual light'). "And if anyone hears my teachings and regards them not, I do not judge him;(not yet), for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world."(He then cautioned , however (vs.48), "He who sets me at naught and does not receive my teachings, is not left without a judge: 'the Message' which I have spoken, will judge him on the last day."

However Jesus then encouraged those who are 'obedient believers', with His Promise

(John 5:24) "In most solemn truth I tell you that he who listens to my teaching, and believes Him who sent me, has the Life of the Ages, and does not come under judgment, but has passed over out of death into Life." (God inspired that same Message to be written in order to guide us if we believe it, or, to judge us if we do not believe it.)

If we believe what someone says to us, we would be inclined to honor what they have told us, or in the words of Jesus Christ, we should be inspired to obey what He has told us to do "Trust in God, trust in Me also." (John 5:28-29), Jesus reminded everyone of the reward He promises those who do honor and obey Him, because they believe His words and love Him, (and He warned those who "refuse to believe Him whom He has sent". "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice, 'and come forth'—those who have done good, to the 'resurrection of life', and those who have done evil, to the 'resurrection of condemnation'."

The apostle Paul instructed that all professed Christians should, 'examine yourselves on the one vital point (he said), to see if we are really in Christ (2 Cor.13:5) "Test yourselves to discover whether you are true believers: put your own selves under examination. Or do you not know that Jesus Christ is within you, ..unless you are insincere?"

The Apostle's words (Rom.8:1) to be "in Christ"(means 'believing in Him), were supported repeatedly by Jesus Christ during His ministry on earth. (John 5:23-24)"He who does not honor the Son, does not honor the Father who sent Him. In most solemn truth I tell you, that he who listens to my teaching and believes Him who sent me, has the 'Life of the Ages', and does not come under judgment". For a person to not come under judgment (condemnation) because they continue to trust on the Son of God for things in their life, is indeed, being 'in Christ', (or, in the 'continuing love' of Jesus Christ). (John 15:9-10) "As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you: continue in my love. If you obey my commands, you will continue in 'my love', as I have obeyed my Father's commands and continue in 'His love'."

(John 14:15) "If you love me, you will obey my commandments." (vs.21) "He who has my commandments and obeys them, he it is

who loves me; and he who loves Me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will clearly reveal myself to him."

When a true believer accepts God's Word about His only Son (words He gave to us through His Son), then we can receive His Spirit within our heart, to reveal Christ to us, and to inspire us to trust in Him in obedient faith for things in our life.(Acts 5:32) "And we are His witnesses to these things"(meaning, the resurrection of Christ), "and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

For the worldly-minded unbeliever, however, (who has not believed nor accepted God's Word about His Son)(John 14:17 says) "That Spirit the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him. You know Him because He remains by your side and is in you." Jesus said, "The 'Kingdom of Heaven' is within you" (meaning, His Spirit is within the 'true believer').(Luke 17:21)

A believer receives the Holy Spirit after they make a total commitment to obey God's Word. Multitudes say, 'they obey', but don't (actually) obey God's Word on one, a few, or many major life issues. If we are not committed to obeying everything Jesus told us to obey, the Holy Spirit's power would be hindered, and we could find ourselves 'drifting away' from 'God's Truth' (outside of God's will), or simply disobeying the Scriptures and finding ourselves no longer 'in Christ', through believing in Him.

If we are committed to an obedient faith in Christ, however, we will be taught 'lessons of faith' from the trials we meet in our life, because God will be our 'Teacher', and, 'the Bible' is our textbook of instructions(which God inspired to be written for us). God will teach us, just as He taught His Son through obedience, as an example for us to follow in our commitment to be faithful in trusting only in Him. (Heb.5:8-9) "Although He was God's Son, yet He learned obedience from the sufferings which He endured; and so, having been made perfect, He became to all who obey Him the source and giver of eternal salvation."

As a faithful student (with God as our Teacher), we would want to sincerely commit ourselves to do God's will in our life (regardless of the circumstances), which will mean, sincere

consecration of our heart to do God's will (in everything), and, a true desire to be delivered from the 'self-will' in our heart. That will open the way for the Holy Spirit to help us understand what Jesus Christ truly accomplished for us on the Cross of Calvary.

When (with the Holy Spirit's help) we do understand what that Atonement work of the Son of God has already done for us, then we can believe on the power of His Atonement Blood shed for us. (John 7:17) "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."

Most importantly, because we believe on Christ's Atonement sacrifice, that is where we will automatically 'place our trust' (and not turn to human plans), nor to (the "arm of flesh" as the Bible says), ..to seek healing, financial insurance or security, protection from mishap, or, to seek vengeance for ourselves and 'loved ones'.

[When the Holy Spirit enables us to understand what Christ's Atonement work on the Cross has done for us, we will soon realize that where our place of trust is centered, really is an Eternal Life issue.

Jesus explained what His Atonement Sacrifice would mean to everyone who 'believes' on Him. (John 3:15)"And just as Moses lifted high the serpent in the Desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ..in order that every one who 'trusts' in Him.. may have the 'Life of the Ages'."(A promised reward for trusting in the 'Son of God').

To trust in the One whom God has sent (instead of, trusting in human plans 'the arm of flesh' for help), is each true Christian's responsibility and their choice (as well as being God's requirement for a person to be 'in Christ Jesus'). (Rom.8:1)"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are 'in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

Some Eternal Security people (Once Saved, Always Saved teachers), will misquote that Scripture, by putting that verse in a 'past tense', saying, rather, 'there is no condemnation for those who have believed', ..because 'putting our trust in the past tense' (a one-time trust), is what they use to support their 'false doctrine', that a person cannot lose their Salvation after

they have once said that they have accepted Christ into their life.

Jesus said, however, that a person will be cut off from the true Vine if they do not remain in faithful obedience to His Word.(John 15: 4-6) "Continue in me, and 'let me' continue in you. (Those words "let Me continue in you, indicate that it must be our decision and choice to remain faithful (one who chooses to do God's will, Jesus said), and to 'let Christ' continue to lead us on the pathway of faith in Him.)

"Just as the branch"(that means us) "cannot bear fruit of itself--that is, if it does not continue in the vine"—"so neither can you (the branch) if you do not continue in Me." "I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who continues in me (and in whom I continue) bears abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If any one does not continue in me, he is like the un-fruitful branch which is at once thrown away and then withers up. Such branches they 'gather up and throw into the fire' and they are burned."

A true Christian will be tested in the situations faced each day, and we will have opportunities to exercise our God-given free-will choice, to place our trust in God, (or, in some other person, place, or thing). We must always remember that our preparation for Eternal 'Life' is directly involved. (John 3:16-17)"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. (The unbeliever is not mentioned in (vs.16). "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. However (Vs.18), does mention the unbeliever). "He who 'believes' in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe ..is condemned already, because he has not 'believed' in 'the Name' of the only begotten Son of God."

'Believing' on the power of Jesus Christ's Atonement Blood for our 'hope of Salvation', is the 'basic principle' involved for the fulfillment of the true Christian's 'goal of Salvation'. (1 Thess.5:9) "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Trusting on the Son of God for things in this life (as a child trusts a parent), reveals that

one is really believing in the work that Christ accomplished for them on Calvary's Cross. Not to trust, would be forsaking God's offer of mercy and love, that He extends through the power of the Atonement Blood of His dear Son. Everyone should seek wisdom from God in all situations, allowing Him to reveal His 'divine will' to them, so they understand what 'believing' on the Son of God really means. That it is the only 'condition' that God places on us, to 'receive the benefits' of being within His 'will'.

When we are tested in daily life situations (and everyone without exception must be tested), we must remember that it 'does matter'(very much)..'where' we 'place our trust'. It is 'an Eternal Life issue' as Jesus explained for us all to listen and take heed, .."he who does not believe is condemned already,.. 'because'.. he has not 'believed.'"

God's wonderful 'promise' is for true believers, who make 'right choices' when tested, and who are trusting in the Son of God instead of on man's way and plans. "He who believes in Him is not condemned;" (the Bible says).

God instructed His people to make right choices (Jere. 6:16)"This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."(That means to choose the right 'path of faith' on God's 'promises'. The entire Bible teaches people to walk by faith on the righteous pathway), "Then you will find rest for your souls." (which goes on into Eternity).

If a person is oppressed physically by the devil, and, makes a free-will choice to place their trust in a doctor (medicine or drugs) for healing (instead of the living God), then "he has not his trust resting on the Name of God's only Son", and would not be "believing in Him whom God has sent." That wrong decision should be confessed to God and forsaken, as God is waiting to forgive anyone who is willing to repent of their mistake, and His "mercy endures forever".

It is the same in financial matters, if one is trusting on laid-up treasure (such as savings accounts, a welfare plan, social security or other insurance plans of some kind, for protection against financial liabilities or losses, then their trust would not be "resting on the name of God's

only Son". A wrong decision on a 'place of trust' regarding finances, must also be corrected and confessed to God, ..who is waiting to forgive anyone who will return to trusting on Him financially, (rather than to misplace their trust on a man-made plan for financial protection or security).

If one uses self-efforts to avenge wrongs done to them, (rather than trust God to right their wrongs), then "he has not His trust resting on the name of God's only Son" (and Jesus said), they would not be believing "in Him whom God has sent."(to avenge those wrongs).

Regarding every example of not trusting, or not believing, or not having faith in the Son of Man, those words of Jesus agree with His Father's words through the prophet. (Jere.17:5), says, "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD."

Jesus knew however, that most people would not believe in His invitation to take their burdens to Him in faith, thus, He asked (Luke 18:8), "Yet, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" (That is a reminder for us to claim the faith needed to believe on the power of the Atonement Blood of Christ and power of His resurrection to Life, accepting into our heart what it already accomplished for us.

(Matt.11:28-30), Jesus invited us to choose to trust in Him, and He promised us a glorious resting place for trusting Him (instead of trusting on man's plans). "Come to me, all you toiling and burdened ones, and *I* will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your 'souls'. For it is good to bear my yoke, and my burden is light."

Again(Rom. 8:1) reminds us "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are 'in' Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

"To be in Christ, is to believe on and trust in Him!!"



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