

A Simple Bible Study on "Believing"

John 1:7; 1:12; 1:50; 2:11; 2:22-23; 3:12; 3:15-16; 3:18; 3:36; 4:21; 4:39; 4:41-42; 4:48; 4:50; 4:53; 5:24; 5:38; 5:44; 5:46-47; 6:29-30; 6:35-36; 6:40; 6:47; 6:64; 6:69; 7:5; 7:31; 7:38-39; 7:48; 8:24; 8:30-31; 8:45-46; 9:18; 9:35-36; 9:38; 10:25-26; 10:37-38; 10:42; 11:15; 11:25-27; 11:40; 11:42; 11:45; 11:48; 12:11; 12:36-39; 12:42; 12:44; 12:46-47; 13:19; 14:1; 14:10-12; 14:29; 16:9; 16:27; 16:30-31; 17:8; 17:20-21; 19:35; 20:8; 20:25; 20:27; 20:29; 20:31.

Chapter 7 (7:5; 7:31; 7:38-39; 7:48)

TITLE: *Believing produces an ongoing fruitfulness, but is not a function of the family in which we grow up, is not dependant on signs or miracles, and is not likely to be seen in rulers.*

(1) John 7:5

For even His brothers did not **believe** in Him.

- Why was it difficult for close family members to believe in Christ?
- Was it because they knew Him more intimately?
- Was it His sin that kept them from believing? Since we know from other verses that Jesus was sinless (John 8:46) but that He did have brothers (Mark 3:31; 6:3) we conclude they must have stumbled because of His parents, and other possible natural issues they could not rationalize. They knew when He was learning carpentering how 'human he was, so it could be pride ('who does this brother think he is anyway?')
- What does this imply for children of Christian parents? *It implies that **believing** is personal, and not necessarily an advantage for becoming Christian, though it often is a major reason children do adopt Christianity.*
- What does this imply for children of non-Christian parents? *It conversely implies that having ungodly parents is not an excuse for rejection of Jesus' Truth. Accepting has and will always be a personal choice irregardless of the environment we are raised in.*

(2) John 7:31

And many of the people **believed** in Him, and said, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?"

- Why was it hard for religious leaders to believe on Jesus more than common people? *Obviously spoken as sarcasm, it took the testimony of many believing on Him to **begin to convince** unbelievers His testimony was true.*

Based on **John 7:17** *If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority,*

- Can we say Jesus made it clear that the human heart can recognize truth and accept it when it is spoken/read?

(3-4) John 7:37-39

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying,

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those **believing** in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- Who if any would be excluded by the term ‘anyone’? *No one. Whosoever will may come! (Re. 22:17)*
- What connection to ‘the feast’ is Jesus statement ‘if anyone thirsts’? *Water/wine was often served and quenched thirst at such occasions. It was a clear communicative symbol to aid their understanding of what **believing** truly represented.*
- Does ‘drink’ refer to physical, or is it spiritual exclusively? *It is obviously both and reinforces the spiritual aspect when the physical is first presented.*
- What does ‘his heart’ refer to? *The soul of a man which lives forever. That spirit can influence others and thus overflow with life-giving water for others.*
- Why does Jesus say ‘rivers’? ‘of living waters’? *He makes abundance as an emphasis, and a river is a picture of prosperity and supplied need. See Ps 1:1-3.*

(5) John 7:48

Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees **believed** in Him? (NKJV)

- Is it necessary for ‘rulers or the Pharisees’ to believe to validate truths today? No, they believed Jesus spoke blasphemy because they sent officers (7:32) to take Jesus;
- Can God circumvent the unbelief of those in opposition? *Jesus’ prevented them from taking Him, and thus has the power to save as well.*
- Could we say the same thing happens today when Jesus’ words are spoken from the Bible? In what ways? *Although there is evil opposition whenever **believing** is presented, there is also light that shines in the darkness.*