

# *It Is Written*

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## **Do We Believe God?**

By Jarrod Jacobs

There is a difference between believing in God and believing God. Many today claim to believe in God, saying they know that One greater than themselves exists. However, few truly believe God. If people believed God, we would not face many of the problems we have faced in the past or are facing today.

### **Adam And Eve**

Consider Adam and Eve. These two walked and talked with God (Gen. 2-3). They were fully aware of Him and His will (Gen. 2:15-17). In fact, Eve knew God's will so well that she repeated it to the serpent (Gen. 3:2-3). God's will was easily understood and easily followed. The problem came when Satan convinced her to eat from the tree forbidden to her and Adam (Gen. 3:4-5). In eating, she forsook God's will and followed her own will. So did Adam (Gen. 3:6). Thus, sin entered the world.

In sinning against God, Adam and Eve stopped believing God. If they had believed God, they would not have succumbed to Satan's temptation, for they would have believed God's warnings (Gen. 2:17). How many of us fall into this same trap? We know what God's will is, yet we continue to sin and often commit the same sin repeatedly. Indeed, there is a difference between knowing and believing. We know God's will and the consequences of disobedience, yet we do not believe. If we believed, we would not yield to the temptation placed before us by Satan (Jas. 1:14-15).

### **David And Bathsheba**

The record in II Samuel 11 of David's sin with Bathsheba is a good example of one not believing God. Would anyone believe that David was not aware of the Ten Commandments? Had he never heard, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," or "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife" (Ex. 20:14, 17)? Would anyone believe that David never knew that God had said, "You shall not murder" (Ex. 20:13, NKJ)? He was aware of what God had said. He did not question the existence of Almighty God. However, he did not believe God. If he did, he would never have done what he did, subjecting his family, the nation, and a newborn babe to the dire consequences of his actions.

### **Other Examples**

Consider Billy Graham (1918-2018) for a moment. After decades of preaching, could we honestly think he never read Mark 16:16 or Acts 2:38? Do we honestly think that others of his ilk (Joel Osteen, Jimmy Swaggart, Benny Hinn, etc.) are unaware of such passages? Then, why is it that they do not teach what the Bible teaches about baptism? Why is it that people like Billy Graham do not teach the truth about the one true church (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18; Rom. 16:16) and instead say, "Join the church of your choice"? The answer is simple: They do not believe God. If they did, they would stop teaching their opinions and would teach the truth (Matt. 15:8-9)!

Unfortunately, these people are not alone. Even some of our brethren are teaching false things. Consider those who say that whatever the individual can do, the church can do. This contradicts passages such as I Timothy 5:16 and Matthew 18:15-17, which show that the individual and the church are not the same. Obviously, they do not believe what the Lord has said, or they would not teach such

a doctrine!

Some teach false doctrine on marriage and divorce. There are those teaching that the put-away fornicator may remarry. Folks teach that anyone divorced for any reason may remarry if they so choose. What about Matthew 5:32 and 19:9? Are these passages not in their Bibles? Indeed, they are. They have just refused to believe them!

Other false teachings are creeping into the church. Many of these false teachings are the same things that have been practiced among those in the denominations. Yet, these same people proclaim loud and long their faith in the Lord. Saying we have faith in God is one thing, but showing it is something else entirely (Jas. 2:17-18).

### **Conclusion**

Paul said, "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?" (Rom. 10:16). In this passage, we find faith and obedience forever joined together. One cannot truly obey until he not only believes in God's existence but also believes the "report" (i.e., God's word). I am sure that everyone reading this article believes in God. The question is: Do we believe God? Remember: James 2:17-18. Unfortunately, this is a problem we will face until the end of time. The question is, how will we handle it? Do we believe God?

## **Led By Whom?**

By Boyd Sellers

Some claim that the Holy Spirit is still speaking to them in a direct, miraculous way IN ADDITION TO what He recorded in the Bible. However, the Holy Spirit Himself tells us that His revelation, the New Testament of Jesus Christ, is "perfect," "complete," and "final" (See Jas. 1:25; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jude 3). The New Testament is the Word we must live by because it is the Word we will be judged by (Jas. 2:12; Jno. 12:48). It is the 'ONLY' way God speaks to men today.

It would be interesting to know just what the Holy Spirit would say to these men that He has not already said in the Bible. If He said the same thing as the Bible, it would not be necessary, and if He said something different, one would be "accursed" if he taught it (Gal. 1:8-9).

Please consider these obvious facts: FIRST, the Holy Spirit would not teach a doctrine that denied what He already said in the Bible. Yet, all who claim direct guidance today teach doctrines which conflict with the Bible. SECOND, the Holy Spirit would not teach conflicting doctrines. Yet, such as claim direct guidance (Mormons, Catholics, Pentecostals, etc.) teach opposing and conflicting doctrines. Who can believe that the Holy Spirit is the author of such chaos? CONCLUSION: Men who claim miraculous guidance today are frauds who teach THEIR OWN doctrines instead of God's. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall NOT pass away." Read your Bible and do what it says. It'll make you perfect and thoroughly furnished (2 Tim. 3:16-17).