



# The Importance of “Only Believe”

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Some of the beautiful things about growing older is in the finding of treasures among treasures. I find that the Holy Spirit continues to draw from the things we already know to show in them what we did not know. It is called revelation knowledge. The purpose of this revelation knowledge is to draw us more assuredly into belief.

God is not as elusive as we may tend to think. The scriptures reassure us that He completed His work. That being the case, what does He do with His “time?” I believe He spends eternity moving us closer and closer to the understanding of what He has done so that we can enter into what He is doing. You see, in God there is the past, present and the future.

Unless I believe what He DID do, I will have difficulty believing what He is DOING and I will have no expectation of what He will DO!

This is why hope can be encouraging or discouraging, depending upon the definition of the word and how it is used.

Hope always has the definition of “expecting.” The question that must be answered is: What is the expectation? What are we expecting?

I often call the lesson on Hope, Hope to the Third Degree. There are many passages in the scripture that use the word “hope.” Even though it is the same word in English, the Hebrew and/or Greek, usage brings about a different definition. It would make a good bible study for anyone who wants to go deeper into the subject. I will sum it up, however, in the three definitions I found.

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## HOPE<sup>1</sup>

There is a hope that is based upon the law. Using the example of our modern day laws, when we approach a stop sign, the shape and color remind us of the law that we must come to a complete stop before proceeding. That law brings about the expectation that people will stop and allow those who have the right of way to proceed. It also brings about the expectation that if that law is violated the law has the right to bring justification.

## HOPE<sup>2</sup>

There is the hope that is based upon witness. The expectation is that what has been seen or witnessed in the life of someone else can be realized in our own lives. An example of this would be seeing someone receive healing for cancer. When we get cancer, our expectation is based upon the experience of someone else.

## HOPE<sup>3</sup>

Then there is the hope that is based upon faith...an expectation without the need for proof. The word of God is sufficient. We find the clearest of this example in Hebrews 11:1...NOW Faith is the substance of what is hoped for; Faith is the evidence of the substance that is not yet seen by natural eyes.

When the statement is made, “I certainly hope so” the expectation is not for something to come to pass, but that what **has been said** is true! This is the part of walking in faith that imprisons most people. The result is that people will then say I believed, but it did not work. What they are really saying is that they need proof that the word of God is true. Then they will commit to believe.

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I have been looking at this for a long time. The life that we live in Christ should be identical to the life lived in Christ by the saints who went before us...particularly the ones in the bible where we have an account of their walk with God. Even in the midst of their weaknesses, what they believed was evidenced by the manifestation of their faith. Even Moses produced according to what he believed. He is a great example of two types of faith. When God told him to strike the rock he obeyed and water flowed from the rock. He did not need a witness beforehand. He believed God. The second time he is faced with a need for water, God tells him to speak to the rock. Moses falls back on what has already been experienced and, instead, strikes the rock. Now, the water came, but Moses faith was not in God at that moment. It was in the experience. We should learn from Moses' experience. Although Moses had the results of the experience and the water flowed, he did not enter the promised land because his faith was no longer in God, but in the people who validated the experience.

God honors all levels of our understanding and meets us at the point of our belief. The power of the Holy Spirit is shown through God's love that desires that we continue to progress beyond today's understanding into His understanding.

Effective prayer means that prayer brings about the results for which we prayed. This only happens when we believe the word of God that we pray. It does not come as long as we are in the place where we are hoping the word is true. This is the reason why there is such disappointment when we think that others have prayed in faith or when we think we have prayed in faith...and nothing seems to happen.

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We must be ruthless when we ask ourselves the truth about our faith. Did we believe God’s word was (and is) true and expect the results of our belief...or did we expect to see proof that the word of God was true. This is an area that seems to be a fine line, yet it is not. It is a very clear case of I believe or I do not believe. When I do not believe, my expectation is that the word of God is true...and that truth will be proven IF the word comes to pass.

There! I’ve said it. The bare truth of the matter is that faith in God ALWAYS works. When faith in God’s word does not work it is because it is not FAITH IN GOD’S WORD but an expectation or hope that God’s word is true...and if it is true by demonstration, then will we believe.

This is not the way it works. My prayer; my declarations have to be made based upon belief in God’s word whether I have proof or not. God’s word has to be sufficient. ONLY BELIEVE!

*Luke 8:50 But when Jesus heard [this,] He answered him, “Do not be afraid [any longer;] **only believe** and she shall be made well.”*

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