

(BELIEVING AND TRUSTING ON THE POWER CHRIST)

"IS TO BE IN CHRIST"

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(ref S43R/S53R)

The Bible teaches that to be a believer in Christ is above all the one thing (one condition) that God requires of everyone (John 6:29). So it's important that we accurately and scripturally define what it means to believe. For a person to have faith in or trust in, someone, or some thing, or a plan, is to believe in that person, thing, or plan. So Jesus wanted His followers to understand, that to be a true believer in Him, means to have faith and trust in Him (instead of on some human plan or person). It is only those who trust in His Name who become true 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'; " To 'trust in Him' is the 'condition' or 'requirement' Jesus gave to His followers (which includes us) (quote) "that you should be 'believers' in Him whom He has sent." When we accept God's Word about His only Son (that He gave to us through His Son), then we can receive His Spirit within our heart, Who will inspire us to trust Him for things in our life. (John 14:17) "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."

During His ministry, Jesus said repeatedly "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you" (meaning, within the believer). So, as we sincerely commit ourselves to do God's will in our life (which means a consecration of the heart, and true desire to be rid of the 'self-will' from our heart)...then the Holy Spirit will be enabled to help us understand what Jesus Christ, really and 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,.. [and what it really means to 'BE IN CHRIST'!!]

Most important,.. by believing on the power of His Atonement Blood, then that is where we will automatically place our trust (not turning to human plans), nor (the 'arm of flesh' as the Bible says),.. for healing, financial insurance or security, protection from mishap, or seeking vengeance for ourselves and loved ones.

(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 translations 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." (Meaning not to trust on 'efforts of self' for things in this life, but be set free from trusting on 'self efforts', rather, to always be found (as God requires), that is, to be trusting and (believing) in the

Spirit of Life, Jesus Christ,... "The One whom God has sent" (to redeem us from the sins of the self-life). That is why it is so important to understand what it means to be believing, in Christ. We should ask ourselves, "what is believing?"

God's Spirit 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."

To obediently trust on the Son of God, is believing, or, being in Christ. "Trust in God, trust in Me also", Jesus said, (John 14:1), and He meant that as instruction (or a command) for the believer to obey, and coming from the only One who could save us from our 'sins of the self-nature' (which will always misplace our trust to some human place, person, or thing). Jesus' words were meant to be taken to heart by those who want to be in Christ (not just words to 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) & (vs 38) "Nor have you His word dwelling within you (he said), for you refuse to believe Him whom He has sent."

(Verses 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 exposing the unbelieving Jews stubbornness to exercise the free-will choice which everyone has,.. that is, to be willing to accept and believe His words and to follow Him in obedient faith, ... or (as Jesus said to them), "...yet you are 'unwilling' to come to me;" you, who "refuse to believe Him whom God has sent."

Jesus assured us (John 12:46), "I have come like light into the world (He said), in order that no one who believes in me may remain in the dark." [Rather, 'true believers' are indeed 'in Christ', and they will receive spiritual light,] (as promised John 1:12) "to those who 'trust in His Name', He has given the 'privilege' of becoming 'children of God'."

Jesus declared to the hypocritical Pharisees who tried to shame believers by shutting them out of the synagogue (John 12: 47) "And if any one hears my teachings and regards them not, I do not judge him;" (not judged just yet, he meant), "for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world." He cautioned and warned them, 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." (God inspired that same Message to be written to

guide us if we will believe it, ... or to judge us if we do not believe it.)

When 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. He also 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.

Apostle Paul instructed that all professed Christians should ... 'examine yourselves on the one vital point', 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 words of the apostle (Romans 8:1), to be in Christ (through believing on Him), were repeatedly supported 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 not to 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."

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

[When a true believer accepts God's Word about His only Son (which 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 the apostles said), "And we are His witnesses to these things" (meaning, to '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, (one 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 within the true believer). (Luke 17:21)

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,.. is indeed an Eternal Life issue. (Jesus explained before his crucifixion, 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."

We will be tested with the situations we face each day, and we will have opportunities to exercise our God-given 'free-will choice' to place our trust on God (or to place it on 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). "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." [vs 18 again re-assures the 'believer' in Christ, but also leaves 'no way of escape' for 'unbelief on our Savior Jesus Christ', who is our only hope for Eternal Life.] (vs 18) "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."

A believer receives the Holy Spirit after they make a total commitment to obey God's Word. Multitudes say they obey, but do not (actually) obey God's Word on one, a few, or many 'major life issues'. If we are not committed to obeying the words Jesus gave 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 He 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.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 really accomplished for us on a Cross at 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."

As 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.

To trust in the One whom God has sent (instead of trusting in human plans for help or trust the arm of flesh), is each true Christian's responsibility and choice... (as well as) 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(or Once Saved, Always Saved teachers), will misquote that Scripture, by putting that verse in the 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 in their life.

However, 'Jesus said', 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' (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 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 unfruitful 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."

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 must seek wisdom from God in all situations, allowing Him to reveal His divine will to them, and so 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 'IN CHRIST'.

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 emphasized,... "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 ways 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 in Eternity!!

If the devil oppresses a person physically and they make a free-will choice to place their trust in a doctor(medicine or drugs) for healing (instead of in 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. A wrong decision should be confessed to God and forsaken, for God(whose mercy endures forever) is waiting to forgive anyone willing to repent.

It is the same in financial matters, if one is depending on a laid up treasure (a savings account, a welfare plan, social security, or an insurance plan of some kind for protection against financial loss or liability), their trust would not be 'Resting on the name of God's only Son.' A wrong decision on a place of trust regarding finances, should also be corrected and confessed to God,... who is waiting to forgive anyone who returns to trusting on Him financially, rather than misplace trust on a man-made plan for financial protection or security. (Jeremiah 17: 5) "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD."

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

S53R(TO BE >IN CHRIST=, IS BELIEVING ON HIM)

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