

BELIEVING FAITH

CONDITION IN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

#S261R

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REFERENCE VERSE: (John 6:28-29)

It is most important for a person wanting to live the true Christian life, to fully understand the only condition that God places on His Salvation Plan. It is a plan that is made complete, because the Atonement work of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary is a complete work. God's Salvation Plan is His New Covenant plan for saving mankind, and it is what He wants everyone to fully understand (and to believe in).

If a person truly believes in God's Salvation Plan, then that is where they will place their faith and trust, ... (which is the one condition that God places on His will for us to receive Salvation by Grace through faith). If a person is not trusting on the Son of God for things in this life (like a child trusts a parent), it reveals that they are not really believing in the work that Jesus Christ accomplished for them on Calvary's Cross. Everyone should seek wisdom from God and allow Him to reveal His divine will to them, so they understand what is the only condition that He places on receiving the benefits of being within His will.

Jesus explained (to the crowd who had come to hear Him), the condition for receiving those benefits, (John 6:28-29), "What are we to do," they asked, "in order to carry out the things that God requires?" "This", (replied Jesus) "is above all the thing that God requires-that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent." (That is the basic principle involved for the fulfillment of the true Christian's goal, which is, believing on the power of Jesus Christ's Atonement Blood for our hope of Salvation. (1 Thess. 5:8-9), "But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

To be a believer in Christ (not just saying we believe), (nor just saying, "Lord, Lord," as Jesus said), is the only condition that God requires of everyone. So, it is important that we understand that believing is having faith in something or someone. Jesus wanted His followers to understand, that to be a true believer in Him, means to

have faith and trust in Him, (instead of placing our trust on a human plan or a person). That is the condition Jesus said God requires, so He told His followers (quote) "that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent."

However, (Isaiah was inspired by God to ask (chapter 53:1), "Who has believed our message?... and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" Jesus also admonished the people first, and then He asked a similar question (Luke 18:7-8), "And will not God avenge the wrongs of His own People who cry aloud to Him day and night, although He seems slow in taking action on their behalf? Yes, He will soon avenge their wrongs, Yet, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?"

In other words, will He find anybody going to God with their troubles, and getting their deliverance in His way (instead of turning to man for help?) That means to depend on the power of Jesus' Atonement Blood for our deliverance from sin, our forgiveness and the provision of everything that is needed. (2 Pet.1:3-4) , "seeing that His divine power has given us all things that are needful for life and godliness, through our knowledge of Him who has appealed to us by His own glorious perfection. It is by means of these that He has granted us His precious and wondrous promises, in order that through them you may one and all, become sharers in the very nature of God, having completely escaped the corruption which exists in the world through earthly cravings."

So, first of all, we are to believe the facts given us in God's Word, because it is supported by the Atonement work of Jesus Christ on the Cross (our only hope of Salvation). After we have admitted to ourselves our condition of sin and unbelief, and we have sincerely confessed our mistakes to God, we next must believe the fact (because God's Word says so), that He has forgiven us as He promised he would. (1 John 1:8-10), "If we claim to be already free from sin, we lead ourselves astray and the Truth has no place in our hearts. If we confess our sins, He is so faithful and just that He forgives us our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. If we deny that we have sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Message has no place in our hearts." (Having no place for the Truth in our heart, would be a very spiritually dangerous and unwise condition to be in.)

However, if we are of a repentant heart and we believe God's Word is fact, the Truth will definitely have a place in our heart (because the Holy Spirit is promised to those who believe) Then we will have no problem putting our faith on His written Word and Promises. God's Word reveals that the power of His Son's Atonement Blood, supports the facts that are given in His Word, so it is by faith that we are to see ourselves as God's Word says we are. Then we stand ready to accept and receive the benefits of the Atonement work of Christ. (Romans 5:1-3 says), "Standing then acquitted as the result of faith, let us enjoy

peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also, as the result of faith, we have obtained an introduction into that state of favor with God in which we stand, and we exult in hope of someday sharing in God's glory."

Some vital principles that are foundation for living a successful Christian life, are to confess and forsake every sin, and to surrender our entire life and will to God. That is starting out right in the Christian life, and there can be no success without that full surrender of our self-will to do God's will. Our sincere surrender and commitment to do God's will in our life, is what allows room for the Holy Spirit to have His place in our heart, and inspire us to meet God's condition of "believing on the One He has sent." (2 Pet.1:10) "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble."

These things (should give diligence to the Apostle said), and so, add to our faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness brotherly kindness, and love. Giving diligence means to be committed, or to strain every nerve in order to be found of Christ in peace, without spot or blemish. (1 Pet.4:18) "Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

When we reach the place where we would rather perish than to do different from what God's Word says, or, rather perish than to trust in anything or anybody but God, nothing (in all the world) can hinder the power of God from working in our spiritual life, our home, in the healing of our body, and everything else that concerns us.

We are to learn how to deal personally with God in regard to receiving deliverance out of our troubles in His way, and the spiritual blessing received with the deliverance, will inspire the very nature of Jesus Christ to grow within. Without that spiritual growth, we would never be ready for Heaven.

"The Kingdom of Heaven is within you," Jesus said during His ministry on earth. It is having the nature of Christ in our heart, like a seed planted to grow within by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, so that we might "do these things" and "never stumble"(as the Apostle said). We need to make the choice that we want to be committed to doing God's will in our life, then the Holy Spirit can lead us in doing so. God cannot do anything for us unless He gets possession of our life first.

A dressmaker cannot make a garment without having the material, nor can a carpenter build without the lumber. We must give our life back to God, for Him to begin working in our heart. To surrender the self-life (that we were born with) and choose to return our life into God's hands, is not only Scriptural, but it is common reasoning as well, because we belong to God by creation. (When someone creates something, they are the master of what they have created).

The second reason why God has a claim on our life(if we will use

our free-will choice and choose to return it to Him), is because we have been purchased (or bought back) with the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. (1 Cor.6:20), "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

When we believe that we have the nature of Christ within us, we would not want to move away from the straight path of faith and trust, on Him whom we believe is in us, (because Scripture says that He is within the believer). (Luke 17:21, Jesus said), "Nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!'—for the Kingdom of God is within you." ("Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" (1 Cor. 6:19). So, would we try to take Jesus Christ along with us, if we allow the devil to deceive us into placing our trust in someone or something else,.. instead of "believing in Him whom God has sent?"

We will be tested in the situations we face each day, and we will have opportunity to exercise our God-given free-will choice, to place our trust in God, (or in some other person or thing). We must always remember that our preparation for Eternal Life is directly involved). (John 3:14-15, Jesus said), "And just as Moses lifted high the serpent in the Desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, in order that everyone who trusts in Him may have the Life of the Ages."

God gives a wonderful promise to true believers, who make the right choice, and are trusting in the Son of God, instead of man's ways and plans. (John 3:18), "He who trusts in Him does not come up for judgment. He who does not trust has already received sentence, because he has not his trust resting on the name of God's only Son."

If a person (who believes that they have Christ within, and that their body is a temple for the Holy Spirit), if they would be tested by a physical oppression from the devil...would they not be trying to take Christ's Spirit along with them, if they were to turn from the narrow pathway of faith and trust on God, by making a conscious choice to place their trust in doctors or medicine for their healing? It would be like sending Christ back to suffer again on the Cross to pardon them, while at the same time they claim to be sharing in Christ's resurrection to Life, through believing on the healing power of His Atonement work for us on the Cross. The Bible says, "He who does not trust, has already received sentence, because he has not his trust resting on the name of God's only Son." That person would not be believing "in Him whom He has sent."... (that one condition that God puts on His Salvation Plan for mankind).

It is the same in financial matters (when a person believes that they have Christ within themselves and that their body is a temple for the Holy Spirit). Would they try to take Christ's Spirit along with them, if they were to make a conscious choice to sign for and accept responsibility for a savings account, a welfare plan, social security money, or any other type of insurance plan?, (which are designed by

man for security and financial protection). Again, the Bible says, "He who does not trust (believe in Him whom He has sent), has already received sentence, because he has not his trust resting on the name of God's only Son."

When a person believes that they have Christ within, and that their body is a temple for the Holy Spirit, would they be trying to take Christ with them, if they resort to using self efforts to avenge wrongs done to them, instead of trusting God to right their wrongs?

(Rom. 12:18-21), "If it be possible, as much as lies within you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

In regard to every example of not trusting, or believing, or having faith in the Son of Man, the words of Jesus, agree with His Father's words through the prophet. (Jeremiah 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."

The three Hebrew children (did not fall under that curse), for their hearts did not "turn away from the Lord". It would have been easy for them to follow the laws of the country by bowing down to the golden image instead of remaining faithful to God. But, that would have been "signing on with the king" (so to speak), or showing their approval, by just acting like they were worshiping his idol (even though they did not agree with it). They would have been compromising God's command not to worship an idol and in reality, would have been turning their heart away from the Lord". They would not have been truly 'believing', that one thing that is, "above all, the thing that God requires" (John 6:29).

'BELIEVING' is the one condition to receiving our Salvation, that is why it is so important to understand what it means to be a true believer in the Son of God, (and for the Believer not to allow something or someone to come between them and God). (Acts 10:43), ATo Him all the Prophets bear witness, and testify that through His name all who believe in Him receive the forgiveness of their sins." (What could be more important to anyone, than to be forgiven to be saved?)

Why did Jesus say, "listen to my teaching",... and, "If you love me, you will obey my commandments?" (John 14:15). He answers that question (John 3:36), "He who believes in the Son has the Life of the Ages;... he who disobeys the Son will not enter into Life, but God's anger remains upon him." (When we believe on the Atonement work of Christ and repent, we receive pardon, cleansing, and forgiveness. Being redeemed by His shed Blood, we come out from under God's anger upon mankind).

Jesus' words emphasize the contrast between the reward for one who loves and faithfully believes in Him, and the results for the one who rebels and disobeys Him. Jesus and His apostles (like Moses and the prophets before them), never separated a true believer's faith, from their obedience to God's Word.

Faith and obedience go hand-in-hand throughout the Bible, because God's Word (The Truth) does not change. (1 Peter 1:25), "But the word of the Lord remains forever. And that means the Message which has been proclaimed among you in the Good News."

If one lays up treasures on earth, places their trust in the man-made financial plans of banks and insurance companies, uses self-efforts to right their wrongs, or turns to the medical profession for their health or healing, then they would not be trusting, or believing in Him whom He has sent, which is (as Jesus said) "above all the thing that God requires." (John 6:29).

(Prov. 28:13), "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." We must leave ourselves open for God's conviction each day and be willing to make confessions and changes in our life and receive the mercy that He extends to us through Calvary's Cross.

Just as the shed blood of a lamb (placed over the doors of the Israelite's homes down in Egypt), was the only merit God required of them to receive His mercy then, so, the only merit that God requires for our Salvation today, is the shed blood of Christ, (which has already been paid for us, and which we place in faith over our doors). (John 5:24), (Jesus promised), "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."

That is the inheritance of a true BELIEVER who is faithful to the end, and who receives the CROWN OF LIFE (Rev. 2:10).

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THE FIRST CENTURY GOSPEL CHURCH/ PHILADELPHIA

S261R ABELIEVING FAITH" (CONDITION OF GOD'S WILL)

MAIN POINTS:

- 1. The message emphasizes that we must be believers in the Atonement work of Jesus Christ on the Cross. It is the God's one requirement for His Salvation Plan for everyone.
- 2. (Importantly) if we truly believe on what His Atonement work has done for us, then that is where we will place our trust, and it is the only place from where spiritual growth can be received. (That is a 'life of faith' at Jesus' feet, by faith at the foot of Calvary's Cross).

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