

Do you Believe? What do you Believe??

Had a friend drop over the other day I hadn't seen for a while, we had other visitors and soon enough a discussion about the power of God had begun. Now, I know not to go certain places and topics with my friend, he has very firm beliefs and a dam good argument, but as for our visitor, I could not deter the conversation. But it got me thinking again like my friend always does, he gets me thinking, so I immediately started this part of the newsletter. Do you believe the word of God is true? Do you believe that God can heal the sick? Do you believe in Heaven and Hell? Do you believe that God loves everyone? Stop reading for a while right here, stop and have a think of what do you really believe! Take at least 5 minutes time out to think about what you believe, talk to God about it if you have to, but stop and think about it please.

Did you stop and think about it? I hope so, someone sent me this email during the month as well and it goes right along with this topic. A Christian mountain climber began to slip as he climbed a dangerous section of the mountain. In a flash he had fallen over the edge of a cliff and began to plunge downward when he thrust out his hand and grabbed a small tree that had grown out from between two rocks. As he hung there fearing the worst, but trying to figure out what to do, he decided to pray for help. "Oh God!" He cried out, "Please save your fallen servant!"

He suddenly heard a voice calling him from above, "Just trust Me, let go of the branch, and I will save you." Pausing a moment while he glanced down, the climber called out, "Hey, is there anyone else up there?" Sometimes we are just like that man that fell from the cliff, we want God to use us, we want to see the miracles and people come to Jesus, but when it really comes down to the crunch and God opens a way for us, we chicken out! Well, maybe you don't, but I know I do sometimes. There have been so many questions lately of how come we don't see the power of God in the church, how come we don't see miracles, how come people get healed and raised from the dead over seas but we never see it here?

Now let me put something really plain to you that God said to me many years ago. I was meditationing for a few days on 2 particular verses, when I heard this voice say to me, "Ross, can you swim", I knew it was the Lord because it was so clear it was almost audible, I said "yes Lord", he asked me the same thing 3 times, and asked "do you swim when you jump in"? Then he asked me once "Do you believe my word", I said "Yes Lord of course I do", He then said very abruptly but with Love "Then why don't you do it?"

Well, that gave me a kick up the butt to say the least, from that day till now I have never passed up an opportunity to talk to someone about Jesus or to pray with someone where there has been made a way, others have asked me to pray for someone because they were talking to them, but I just look at them and say no, then I encourage the person who was talking to them to pray with them. Most times it is my wife who wants me to pray for someone, I don't get it? I am no better than the next person, I am not holier than thou, we are all equal in God's eyes, we are all able to pray for someone, or talk to them about Jesus, just because I **was** "a Pastor" or I am "a Chaplain" **does not qualify me** more than anyone else.

So what does qualify a person you may ask, simple, what do you believe! Smith Wigglesworth was an early 1900's preacher who saw many miracles in his life, what qualified him, like he told everyone back then "If you would only believe". Do you really believe what you read in the word of God, or do you just believe what the preacher tells you? Do you believe what I tell you? If I told you to jump off a thousand foot cliff and you would live would you believe me? No I don't think so! So why believe me when I say something about God? Just because I say it or a famous preacher says it, does not qualify you to believe anything! You and I need to get into the word of God ourself, open that dusty bible and read it, study it, get it deep down inside, because preachers can tell tall stories, Jesus is the only one who can hold claim to the fact that he said "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". **John 14v6.**

There is no man on this earth that can teach you to a point of belief, because his interpretation may be wrong, I know mine has been at times. I have seen people get sucked in by preachers many times over, then they blame God when things go wrong! Hang on, it isn't God's fault, they believed the preacher not God! See, we need God to speak to us through his Spirit, it is the Holy Spirit who will lead us into all truth **John 16v13**, not man. Think about it again now, what do you believe, who do you believe? If you can honestly say you believe the word of God is true, then go and do it and it will happen for you, if you are honest enough to say, I have been misled by man, I don't know what I believe, then go and open your Bible and start reading because God has got a whole new experience for you, because you are honest.

So how do we know who and what we believe? Easy, God showed me something recently, I was talking to another friend, all this friend could say was, this preacher says, and that preacher says, and yet he was getting the scriptures totally twisted and out of context, he was parroting preachers, just like a lot of

preachers do, they copy each others sermons. Yes we can learn things from them, my Pastor is an excellent teacher of the word, but he gives me things to go home and study myself, he never really gives me the full content of what he is saying, he couldn't, but he also encourages us to go home and read it for ourselves. He tells us almost weekly, we should be writing these verses down and reading them when we get home.

See, Christianity is supposed to be a two way relationship, where we talk with God and he talks with us, he shows us things, he leads us, directs us, tells us to pray for this one or that one, but sometimes we may be too busy to hear it. We maybe don't read his word enough to hear it as well. Because the word of God tells us things, many people talk about "The Great Commission" that Jesus gave us, what is it? No it wasn't go into all the world and preach the gospel, go read it again many times over, let God show you what he wants you to do, you will find it in **Matthew 28v18-20**. You will be surprised to see what he told us to do. If you have different versions of the Bible, read a few different versions, get it down deep in your heart so that you believe it, know what you believe, maybe you need to look at some other things you "think" you believe, I do.