

WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY THE WORD "FAITH"?

Belief is not just intellectual assent. It includes intellectual assent, but also incorporates obedience, trust, faithfulness, the virtue by which we assent to God's truth. It is a fundamental "yes" to God from the core of our being.

Steve Ray:

The word *believe* in biblical times carried with it the concept of obedience and reliance. Kittel says "*pisteuo means 'to trust' (also 'to obey') . . .*" Vines says, "*. . . reliance upon, not mere credence . . .*" This is confirmed further by John the Baptist's statement in John 3:36 "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not (apeitheo) the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.* (KJV) The work *apeitheo* is understood by all good translators and commentators to mean obedience. The opposite (antonym) of believe is *disobey*. The verse in the RSV says "*He who believes ("is believing", present tense) in the Son. . . he who disobeys ("is disobeying" present tense) the Son . . .*"

The NASB translates the verse like this: "*He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him*". Kittel, a Protestant reference work, clearly defines *apeitheo* to mean "to be disobedient." The word *belief* has the element of obedience wrapped in its arms and the opposite of biblical belief is *disobedience*. One cannot consider oneself to be biblical if he teaches salvation by mental assent (which amounts to cheap grace) *without* the subsequent and corollary present and ongoing obedience.

FAITH, WORKS AND GRACE ALL GO TOGETHER ...

You can't sum up our salvation in one simplistic formula. There are many Bible verses that tell us about our salvation.

Philippians 2:12-13	Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.
Romans 2:5-8	Your stubborn refusal to repent is only storing up retribution for yourself on that Day of retribution when God's just verdicts will be made known. He will repay everyone as their deeds deserve. For those who aimed for glory and honour and immortality by persevering in doing good, there will be eternal life; but for those who out of jealousy have taken for their guide not truth but injustice, there will be the fury of retribution.
James 2:14-26	How does it help, my brothers, when someone who has never done a single good act claims to have faith? Will that faith bring salvation? ... But someone may say: so you have faith and I have good deeds? Show me this faith of yours without deeds, then! It is by my deeds that I will show you my faith. You believe in the one God – that is creditable enough, but even the demons have the same belief, and they tremble with fear. Fool! Would you not like to know that faith without deeds is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by his deed, because he offered his son Isaac on the altar? So you can see that his faith was working together with his deeds; his faith became perfect by what he did. In this way, the scripture was fulfilled: Abraham put his faith in God, and this was considered as making him upright; and he received the name 'friend of God'. You see now that it is by deeds, and not only by believing, that someone is justified ... As a body without a spirit is dead, so is faith without deeds.
Matthew 25:31-46	When the Son of many comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels ... all nations will be assembled before him and he will separate people one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats ... Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me. ... Then he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food, I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink, I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, lacking clothes and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never

	visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or lacking clothes, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “In truth I tell you, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the upright to eternal life.’
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What must we do to be saved and what will we be judged on?

Matthew 16:27	‘For the Son of man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will reward each one according to his behaviour. ‘
Acts 2:38	‘You must repent,’ Peter answered, ‘And every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.’
Luke 10:27 ff.	And now a lawyer stood up and, to test him, asked, ‘Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?’ He replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have answered right, do this and life is yours.’
Matthew 22:37	Jesus said to him, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself.
Mark 12:30	Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one, only Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself.
John 6:51 ff.	I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.’ Then the Jews started arguing among themselves, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ Jesus replied to them: In all truth I tell you, If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of man And drink his blood, You have no life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, And I shall raise that person up on the last day. For my flesh is real food And my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood Lives in me And I live in that person. As the living Father sent me And I draw life from the Father, So whoever eats me will also draw life from me.
Matthew 24:12-13	Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.
Romans 11:22	Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.
2 Peter 2:20-22	If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.”
1 John 5:3	"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."