

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BELIEVE

What does it mean to believe? Is it simply accepting a fact as true? Does belief involve commitment? Is seeing believing? Do our beliefs impact our actions? Our thoughts? Our words? Answers to these questions are life-altering, especially when it comes to Jesus. Can we believe in God, serve Him, and pray to Him but keep Jesus at arm's length? Many are working hard, trying to serve and do the right thing, but will they ever experience true victory apart from Christ? Let's see what the Bible has to say.

Read [John 6:28-29](#).

The crowds always pursued Jesus. In the previous verses, Jesus called the people out for their motives. They were only interested in what He could give them. They wanted to see miracles that met their physical needs.

*What question did the crowd pose to Jesus?*

*How did Jesus respond? What was He trying to emphasize?*

In verse 29, the Amplified version says, Jesus answered, *"This is the work of God: that you believe [adhere to, trust in, rely on, and have faith] in the One whom He has sent."* The only thing God requires of those wanting to receive the free gift of eternal life is to believe in his Son, Jesus. This is the first step in learning to trust in, rely on, and have faith in Jesus. Let's look at the next step.

Read [Luke 9:29-35](#). Read verse [35](#) in at least two translations.

These familiar verses, known as the Transfiguration, reveal important truths.

*Who was speaking in verse 35?*

*How did He describe Jesus?*

*What was His command to us regarding Jesus?*

Believing involves much more than intellectual acceptance or understanding. Jesus speaks to what is required of a true believer.

Read [Luke 9:23-24](#).

- To believe is to deny ourselves. *What selfish interest is Jesus asking you to set aside?*
- To believe is to take up our cross daily. *What do you need to surrender to Jesus' authority?*
- To believe is to follow Christ's example. *What area of your life needs to be transformed?*

*Dear Father God, thank You for the gift of eternal life through your Son, Jesus. We are so grateful for Your presence and provision every day of our lives. May our lives reflect Christ as we listen to and obey Your Word. Increase our faith, Lord, as we seek Your Kingdom first in all things. In Jesus name, Amen.*

