

Doctrine of Belief

1. A main Greek word for belief is *pisteuo*, which means to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to a person or thing). By implication the word also means to entrust (especially with one's spiritual well being).
2. A main Hebrew word for belief is *aman* (aw-man), which means to build up or support, to foster (as a parent or nurse will help a little child or a patient). Figuratively, the word means to render (or be) firm or faithful. It means to trust or believe; to be permanent or quiet; morally to be true or certain.
3. Belief is foundational to any relationship. When Moses was told to go to the people of Israel and speak as one sent from God, he was afraid he would not be believed.
 - *Exodus 4:1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.*
4. To confirm that Moses had received his commission from God and to cause people to believe his words, the Lord gave to Moses three signs of confirmation: a staff that could turn into a snake; a hand that would turn leprous; and the ability to turn water into blood.
 - *Exodus 4:5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.*
 - *Exodus 4:8-9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. 9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.*
5. The Lord promised to appear to Moses in a special way so that the children of Israel would overhear and believe in Moses forever.
 - *Exodus 19:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.*
6. God was provoked to anger with the children of Israel and wondered how long it would be before they believed in Him despite all the signs and wonders He had performed in their midst.
 - *Numbers 14:11 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?*

7. Prior to his death Moses reminded the children of Israel of their unbelief.
 - *Deuteronomy 1:32 Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God,*
8. During the days of Ahaz, king of Judah, the prophets of God charged the nation with failure to believe in the Lord their God.
 - *2 Kings 17:14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.*
9. In the desert of Tekoa, the 35 year old King Jehoshaphat (c. 875 -850 BC) stood to exhort Judah to believe in the Lord God in order for the nation to survive.
 - *2 Chronicles 20:20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.*
10. It is hard for people who are suffering to believe in God.
 - *Job 9:16 If I had called, and he had answered me; yet would I not believe that he had hearkened unto my voice.*
11. Some people are not worthy of being believed.
 - *Proverbs 26:25 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.*
12. There are some specific things which God wants people to believe.
 - That He exists. *Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
 - That there are gods beside Himself. *Isaiah 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. Jeremiah 12:6 For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee. James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*
 - That His power is great. *Habakkuk 1:5 Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.*

- That He loves us. *1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

13. There are some specific things which Jesus Christ wants people to believe.

- That He has power to heal the sick *Matthew 9:28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Mark 5:36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe. Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*
- That children believe in Him. *Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Mark 9:42 And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.*
- The gospel. *Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*
- That there is power in prayer. *Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*
- That He alone is the way of salvation. *John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
- That Jerusalem would one day be destroyed *John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.*
- That God sent Him into the world. *John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. John 11:42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.*
- That people will perish who do not receive Him. *John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*

14. There are some specific things which Christ does not want people to believe.

- False prophets. *Matthew 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. Matthew 24:26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. Mark 13:21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:*
- Every spirit. *1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

15. Sometimes God will not give individuals the power to believe.

- *Luke 8:12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*

16. Belief which is not rooted in God can vanish from the heart.

- *Luke 8:13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

17. The heart of man by nature does not believe spiritual truths concerning sin, salvation, and the Saviour.

- *Luke 22:67 Art thou the Christ? Tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:*
- *Luke 24:25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:*
- *John 3:12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?*
- *John 4:48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.*
- *John 5:38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.*
- *John 5:44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?*
- *John 5:47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*
- *John 6:36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.*

- *John 6:64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.*
- *John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.*
- *John 9:18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.*

18. The heart of man by nature cannot believe.

- *John 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.*
- *John 12:39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,*

19. Sin keeps men from believing in Christ.

- *John 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;*

20. Wonderful things happen to those who believe.

- Individuals are justified in the sight of God. *Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. Romans 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? 2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*
- Individuals are saved. *Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.*
- There is remission of sins. *Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*
- There is the privilege of baptism. *Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*
- There is divine protection from harm's way. *Acts 27:25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.*
- The righteousness of God is given. *Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

- The soul receives eternal life. *John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. Romans 4:24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Romans 6:8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 1 Timothy 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.*
- There is divine power imparted. *John 12:44 Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. Ephesians 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,*
- There is the hope of a future resurrection. *John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? 1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*
- There is joy and peace. *Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. 1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*
- There is a rest to enter into. *Hebrews 3:18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?*
- There is some knowledge of divine love. *1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*
- Signs and wonders may follow those who believe. *Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*
- Confidence of salvation. *1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*
- No more shame. *Romans 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

- A distinction between the saved and the lost. *2 Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*
- New confidence in God. *1 Corinthians 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*
- The right to be identified with other believers in the Church. *Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. Acts 5:14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) 1 Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*
- The gift of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*
- The privilege of leading others to Christ. *Acts 18:8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.*
- The deliverance of a nation from destruction. *Jonah 3:5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.*

21. Terrible things await those who do not believe God, Christ, or the gospel.

- There is a certain and fearful damnation. *2 Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
- There is a just condemnation. *John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 12:44 Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.*
- There shall be no eternal life. *John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*
- There might be a premature death. *Hebrews 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. Jude 5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.*
- The heart of the unbeliever will be susceptible to the lies of Satan *2 Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

- It will be blinded to the truth. *2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*