

5. Believe Deep

John 18:37 says, “‘You are a king, then!’ said Pilate. Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.’” Does it matter what you believe? Well, yes - what good does it do to believe a lie, if there’s truth? Plus, lies make you a captive, and the truth sets you free. Besides, if you believe the truth, it’s worth living it out.

One question that kept coming up in *The Truth Project*, a video series by Dr. Del Tackett that our church studied a number of years ago, was: “Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?” It’s like asking, “Do you really live out of what you believe?” If you do, it should affect the way you live, and it’s easy to act on the truths that you know. Belief is how action begins, and your character is developed by your actions; therefore, you need to believe deep. Without belief it’s impossible to live a life worthy of His calling. II Thessalonians 1:11-12 says, “With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ”. It’s got to be a part of you.

Is it easy to live out the Christian life? Not always. But being Christian is not an adjective, it’s a noun, it’s who you are. Being Christian is not something that describes you, it’s who you are. We are not just imitating Christ. We believe that we are in Christ and Christ is in us. That’s what Christian means - little Christ. Belief is different than imitating something. It’s actually becoming it. So take seriously what you believe and believe deep.

On July 15, 1859 French tightrope walker, Charles Blondin, walked backward across a tightrope to Canada and returned on the tightrope blindfolded, pushing a wheelbarrow. The crowds had watched and "Oooooohed" and "Aaaaahed!" He had proven that he could do it; of that, there was no doubt. It is said that he then asked his audience, "Do you believe I can carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?" Of course the crowd shouted that yes, they believed! It was then that Blondin posed the question – “Who will get in the wheelbarrow?” Of course...none did.

In order for belief to become action you have to believe deep. It has to become a part of who you are. Romans 10:9-10 says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Proverbs 3:5-6, a passage most have memorized says, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 20:5 says, “The purpose in a man’s heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.” When one believes deep, there is a greater ability to work it out. If you want to live right, you have to act on what you believe; and the way to believe the truth is, by reading, memorizing, and meditating on the Scriptures. Psalm 1 is pretty clear. The one who meditates and delights in the word of God is like a tree firmly planted by a stream bearing fruit in its season and the leaf doesn’t dry up.

Keep your heart filled with the Word of God and you will always have the ability to act on your faith. It's not that you need more faith, you need to believe deep and use the faith you already have. The Bible says it only takes faith the size of a mustard seed to move a mountain. So believe deep; and if you're ever in a dark place or feel like you are tempted beyond what you can endure, you will still trust what you believed in the light and apply it to living. Believe Deep!!!