Three Actions Of Believers

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday December 3rd, 2017

Text: Heb. 11:6

### Intro

1. Heb. 11:6
   1. “Faith” = *G4102 pistis:* persuasion, moral conviction, belief(Required to please God!)
   2. “Believe” = *G4100 pisteuō [pist-yoo'-o]:* *From G4102;* to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, credit; by implication to entrust (especially one’s spiritual well-being to Christ): believe (-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.
   3. “Seek” (KJV, NKJ: “Diligently Seek”) = *G1567 ekzēteō [ek-zay-teh'-o]:* to search out, that is, (figuratively) investigate, crave, demand, seek after (carefully, diligently).
2. What we see in Heb. 11:6 is that faith pleases God, and it is more than an expression of faith, but an action (diligently seek). (Not looking with eyes, but hands – children)
   1. God rewards those who “diligently seek” Him! *(Not enough to “claim” to believe Him)*
3. If we’re to believe the statistics, a third of the world’s population claims to be Christian!
   1. <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/> : A comprehensive demographic study of more than 232 countries were reported Dec. 19th, 2010
   2. “As of 2010, Christianity was by far the world's largest religion, with an estimated 2.2 billion adherents, nearly a third (31 percent) of all 6.9 billion people on Earth, the Pew report says” ([www.npr.org/.../muslim-population-will-surpass-christians-this-century-pew-says](http://www.npr.org/.../muslim-population-will-surpass-christians-this-century-pew-says)) – April 2, 2015 *(2010 last time such a comprehensive study was done!)*
   3. The report also says about 80% of US (approx. 37% of world population) are Christians.
4. Are all these people who claim to be Christians true believers as outlined in Heb. 11:6?
   1. Faith (belief) goes beyond simple recognition, but is an action on that belief! *(Mk. 16:16)*
5. There are three actions of believers! *Believers Who Do…*

#### Believers Who Do…Nothing

* 1. Not speaking of atheists or agnostics, but those individuals that claim to believe in God.
  2. Jn. 12:42-43: Jewish Rulers
     1. They believed in Christ but were not pleasing to God.
     2. ***What did they “diligently seek” after?***
        1. They loved the approval (NKJ: “praise”) of men rather than God.
     3. Their inaction was the same as “denial” in Mt. 10:33
  3. Acts 24:24-26: Governor Felix
     1. Felix was a former slave who became governor (1st recorded slave to do so) and was an unscrupulous ruler. In addition to having three wives, “he thought that he could do any evil act with impunity, backed up as he was by such power” (Tacitus: Annals Book 12 [54]).
     2. Tacitus also said Felix, “with all brutality and lust, ruled as a king with the mentality of a slave” (Tacitus: History Book 5 [9]). *(He felt owed & entitled!)*
     3. He became frightened at Paul’s teaching on righteousness (he was wicked), self-control (he had none), and judgment to come (higher power than him).
     4. ***What did he “diligently seek?”***
        1. He sought after a bribe from Paul and conversed with him often for two years and yet never found a “more convenient day.”
  4. Acts 26:24-28: King Agrippa II (52-100 AD; consultant on Paul’s trial before Festus)
     1. Paul said in his defense that he knew Agrippa knew what he spoke of and that he knew Agrippa believed the prophets.
     2. King Agrippa didn’t deny his knowledge or his belief but instead said, “Almost you persuade me to be a Christian” (NKJ).
  5. Js. 2:19: Demons
     1. Perhaps the best case in the N.T. of belief that does nothing is the demons!
     2. Those who profess belief in God but do nothing do as the demons do! (Js. 2:26)
     3. Mk. 5:7: Legion (5:9) called Christ, “Jesus, Son of the Most High God” and recognized His authority over them (Lk. 8:31). *(Peter’s confession was similar, upon which the church would be built – Mt. 16:16-18)*
  6. Not enough to claim belief or recognition in God, but a person must act on that belief!

#### Believers Who Do…the Wrong Thing

* 1. There are those who profess belief and act on it, but they do the wrong thing!
  2. Mt. 6:1, 5; 23:14-15, 27-28: The Scribes and Pharisees
     1. They believed in God but did the wrong thing! (Mt. 15:3-9; Mk. 7:9)
     2. They practiced their righteousness (NKJ: “charitable deeds”) to be seen of men; they prayed to be seen of men; they converted others to their traditions (Mk. 7:9) and thus converted them to condemnation; their deeds were hypocritical! *(Mt. 23:3: Do as they say, but not as they do!)*
  3. Mt. 7:21-23: People on the Day of Judgment *(Must not diligently seek after own way)*
     1. There will be many who did not do “the will of” the Father, but who did what was right in their own eyes (outside the authority of Christ).
  4. Acts 22:3-5; 26:9-11: The Apostle Paul (as Saul of Tarsus)
     1. He was “zealous for God” but did things his own way. He said, “I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.”
     2. He had blood on his hands out of his “zeal” and “rage.” (clear conscience-23:1)
  5. Rom. 10:1-3: The Jews (as a nation)
     1. “They have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.”
     2. They established their own righteousness – *Mt. 7:21-23:* Many people do the same thing! *Many zealots in the world but empty religion!*
  6. Not enough to believe and just do anything, but must do the right thing!

#### Believers Who Do…the Right Thing

* 1. Then there are those who profess belief and act on it according to God’s way!
  2. Acts 2:37-38, 41: Jews on Day of Pentecost
     1. They believed – Peter didn’t tell them to “just believe,” he told them what to *do*
     2. Acts 2:41: They obeyed the gospel according to “his word” (Jn. 8:30-31).
  3. Acts 8:36-38: The Ethiopian Eunuch
     1. Already a believer (a Jewish proselyte – 8:27), he didn’t just profess belief, but obeyed the gospel by being baptized after confessing Christ as the Son of God!
  4. Acts 9:5-6, 17-18; 22:16: The Apostle Paul (as Saul of Tarsus)
     1. He responded to the bright light by saying, “Who are you, Lord *(G2962 Kurios: Supreme Authority, God; Equiv. to H3068 YHWH)?”* He believed!
     2. When Ananias told him what to do (from Jesus – 9:17; 22:16), Paul obeyed!
  5. Acts 16:30-34: Philippian Jailer
     1. “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
     2. Not a believer already so Paul told him to believe in Christ (1st step). After showing repentance he and his household were baptized! (16:33)
     3. Necessary inference shows he took the same steps in obedience as the others.
  6. To be pleasing to God, one must believe and obey His word in “diligently seeking” Him!

## Conclusion

1. The world is full of these 3 kinds of believers:
   1. Believers who do nothing *(Faith only will not save!)*
   2. Believers who do the wrong thing *(Disobedience will not save!)*
   3. Believers who do the right thing *(Obedience to the gospel saves! Heb. 5:9)*
2. Those who obey God please Him! (Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9; 11:6; Js. 2:24: Obedience Saves!)
3. Do you “diligently seek” after the right way to be pleasing unto God? *(Acts 17:11: Bereans)*
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
5. If a Christian in error, Repent and return to God!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!