

THE IMPORTANCE OF BELIEVING

by John Isaac Edwards

The Scriptures emphasize the importance of believing. The devil knows the importance of believing for when the seed is sown “...then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved” (Lk. 8:12). Believing is essential to:

1) COMING TO GOD.

Hebrews 11:6 says, “*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.*” He that cometh to God must believe!

2) **HAVING POWER TO BECOME SONS OF GOD.** John recorded, “*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*” (Jn. 1:12). This shows that we are not children of God by faith alone, but that those who believe on His name have the power (right or privilege) to become the sons of God. One must exercise his right to be a child of God!

3) **BEING SAVED.** Jesus taught, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be*

damned” (Mk. 16:16). When the keeper of the prison asked, “*...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*”, he was told, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house*” (Acts 16:30-31). Romans 10 reveals: “*That if thou...shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness...*” (vv. 9-10). “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have believed? ...*” (vv. 13-14). 1 Corinthians 1:21 points out, “*...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*”

4) RECEIVING

EVERLASTING LIFE. Jesus declared, “*That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (Jn. 3:15-16). John reported: “*He that believeth on Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him*” (Jn. 3:36). “*And many other signs truly did*

Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (Jn. 20:30-31).

5) **GOING TO HEAVEN.** The Lord stated, “*...that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins*” (Jn. 8:24). Lord, what is the consequence if I should die in my sins? “*I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come*” (Jn. 8:21). Jesus said, “*...I go unto my Father*” (Jn. 14:12). The Father is “*in heaven*” (Mt. 7:21). Therefore, if one does not believe He cannot go to where the Father is — heaven.

“*Dost thou believe...?*” (Jn. 9:35). “*...be not faithless, but believing*” (Jn. 20:27). Recognize faith must work to be of value. Paul said, “*...faith which worketh by love*” (Gal. 5:6). James taught, “*that faith without works is dead*” (Jas. 2:17, 20, 26). Put your faith to work in doing what God says like Hebrews 11 people did, for Christ is “*the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him*” (Heb. 5:9).

“MIND IF I SMOKE?”

by James P. Needham

NO, IF you can prove conclusively that it is not harmful to your body which is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19). Modern evidence definitely shows that the use of tobacco is harmful to the body. If this is true, then I mind if you smoke because I fear for your soul because you are committing suicide on the installment plan.

NO, IF you can prove that it does not damage your influence as a Christian. That is, if the fact of your smoking does not in any way cause your “*good to be evil spoken of*” (Rom. 14:16). (Think of talking to someone about becoming a Christian with the smell of tobacco on your breath).

NO, IF you can in good conscience tell me that you have absolutely no objection to your husband, wife, or children taking up the habit. We should not exemplify before our families what we would not want them to do.

NO, IF you can honestly say that you would think it is all right for the elders, deacons, preacher and Bible class teachers to smoke. After all, if it is all right for you, it is all right for everyone else.

NO, IF you can truthfully say that the money you use to support your tobacco habit is not more needed by your family for things which are more beneficial. We need to take our stewardship of our money more seriously.

NO, IF you can definitely establish that you are not addicted to tobacco. If you are, it is a work of the flesh which will endanger your soul (Rom. 6:16; Mt. 6:24; Gal. 5:19-21).

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MONEY QUOTES

“Money is a good servant, but a poor master.”

“It’s good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it’s good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure that you haven’t lost the things that money can’t buy.”

“Covetous men need money least, yet most affect and seek it; prodigals who need it most, do least regard it.”

“Our incomes are like our shoes; if too small, they gall and pinch us; but if too large, they cause us to stumble and to trip.”

“*For the love of money is the root of all evil...*” (1 Tim. 6:10).

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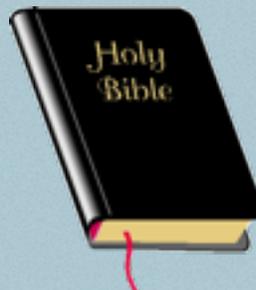
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