

Is Faith Blind Belief?

The Bible calls us to believe in Jesus Christ in order to be saved. What exactly does that mean to believe in Him? Is faith the same thing as blind belief? I think we've all heard the phrase "blind belief" before. People have said that being a Christian means that you blindly believe in the supernatural existence of God and it defies all knowledge and proof. I even think that some Christians believe their faith is just "blind faith." But I want everyone to know that faith in God, in His Son, and the trust of His Word are much, much more than blind belief. In fact, faith in Jesus means your eyes are really wide open!



Here I'm thinking of the opening verses from Hebrews 11. It's sometimes called the faith chapter of the Bible; it says, *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"* (Hebrews 11:1 ESV). Those are not blind faith words. The word for assurance means foundation and confidence. The word for conviction means certainty. Faith is God's gift to us, the certainty of His action in our lives and our world. We're convinced of what God has accomplished and of the promises yet to be fulfilled because of His great deeds.

We must have the focus on Christ's actions. Jesus appealed to the unbelieving crowd when He said, *"If you do not believe me, believe the miracles that I do that you might know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father"* (John 10:38 NIV). So we can be clear ... When people trust in Jesus Christ as Savior, they are not taking a flimsy chance on an unseen and potential fairy tale. They're trusting in facts that have been well documented in history. People saw the miracles of Jesus. They witnessed His suffering and death. They saw the sealed tomb. Then they witnessed the empty tomb! In fact, we're told that five hundred people at one time saw the risen Savior, and these facts were written down. We have the documented eyewitness accounts from less than one hundred years after these actual events. The facts of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension were never hidden. Trusting in Jesus' existence and deeds is not blind faith.

To have faith in Jesus as Savior is more than just understanding historical facts. Many non-Christians acknowledge the very real existence of Jesus. They admit that His words and claims are real. The faith part means acknowledging Him as Lord of your life and trusting Him with your life. That's the appeal that we find in Acts, chapter 16: *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved"* (Acts 16:31).

Faith is not blind, but it is bold. And we can only say, "Jesus is Lord" by the gracious work of the Holy Spirit. We will surrender our lives to Jesus Christ after He takes our life into His gracious hands. The Bible is clear that He is the One Who changes hearts and brings us to repentance. He turns us to Himself. So this faith boldness really is about God's boldness to us first. He reaches into our lives through His Word, through His gift of baptism, and through Jesus' presence in the Lord's Supper. He creates and sustains faith in our hearts in the words and deeds that He has accomplished. We trust in Him for everything; forgiveness, life, even life forever.

We as Christians believe in Jesus and walk in that kind of bold faith by the power of the Holy Spirit and through the Word of God. Two statements are very helpful here: The first is from Jesus. He says to Martha, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."* And then He says, *"Martha, do you believe this?"* This is a question we all must answer ... and Martha's response can help each of us. She said to him, *"Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world"* (John 11:25-27). I also think of the Apostle Peter's exhortation to the crowd in Acts where he says, *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins."* And then He promises, *"you will receive the gift of the Spirit and that this promise is for you and for your children and for all.... whom the Lord our God calls to himself"* (Acts 2:38-39). To believe, to trust, to turn to Him, that's faith with eyes wide open!

That's the View from Here.

Pastor Bill Winter