

• *Believe*

•1:

•*a* :to have a firm or wholehearted religious conviction or persuasion

•*b* :to accept something as true, genuine, or real ideals we *believe* in

•2:to have a firm conviction as to the goodness, efficacy, or ability of something

• Merriam Webster online

God's style of training

We read in the book of Judges Chapter 6, A story of how God helps a person to have more faith.

¹² The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon. He said, "Mighty warrior, the Lord is with you."

God calls people not for what or who they are, but for what they will become.

13 “Pardon me, sir,” Gideon replied, “you say the Lord is with us. Then why has all this happened to us? Where are all the wonderful things he has done? Our people of long ago told us about them. They said, ‘Didn’t the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has deserted us. He has handed us over to Midian.”

In other words: where is God when we need him?

¹⁴ The Lord turned to Gideon. He said to him, “You are strong. Go and save Israel from the power of Midian. I am sending you.”

I’m planning to do something, through you.

We read this famous text in : Philippians 4:13

I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength.

Because nothing is impossible to God, however, certain things we need to do. God expects us to do our part.

¹⁵ “Pardon me, sir,” Gideon replied, “but how can I possibly save Israel? My family group is the weakest in the tribe of Manasseh. And I’m the least important member of my family.”

¹⁶ The Lord answered, “I will be with you. So you will strike down the Midianites. You will leave no one alive.”

He requested a signal to strengthen his faith

²⁰ The angel of God said to Gideon, “Take the meat and the bread. Place them on this rock. Then pour out the soup.” So Gideon did it. ²¹ The angel of the Lord had a walking stick in his hand. With the tip of the stick he touched the meat and the bread. Fire blazed out of the rock. It burned up the meat and the bread. Then the angel of the Lord disappeared. ²² Gideon realized it was the angel of the Lord. He cried out, “Oh no, my Lord and King, I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!”

²³ But the Lord said to him, “May peace be with you! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.”

God encourages Gideon and give him a promise.

Gideon accepted the call and move into action, However:

³⁶ Gideon said to God, “You promised you would use me to save Israel. ³⁷ Please do something for me. I’ll put a piece of wool on the threshing floor. Suppose dew is only on the wool tomorrow morning. And suppose the ground all around it is dry. Then I will know that you will use me to save Israel. I’ll know that your promise will come true.”

Gideon’s faith has a moment of doubt and needs reassurance from God again.

38 And that's what happened. Gideon got up early the next day. He squeezed the dew out of the wool. The water filled a bowl.

God has a loving and enduring patience dealing with his servants.

³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, “Don’t be angry with me. Let me ask you for just one more thing. Let me use the wool for one more test. But this time make the wool dry. And let the ground be covered with dew.” ⁴⁰ So that night God did it. Only the wool was dry. The ground all around it was covered with dew.

Faith or Believe in God is a continuous growing process in the life of the believer.

²⁴ Thomas was one of the 12 disciples. He was also called Didymus (twin). He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So they told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe.”

John 20: 24-25

The Jailer asked Paul what he needed to do to be saved?

²⁹ The jailer called out for some lights. He rushed in, shaking with fear. He fell down in front of Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out. He asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Acts 16:29-30

The answer comes in what it seems a simple answer:

³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved.”

Acts 16:31

Is there a difference between faith and belief?

We use the words today. Belief is an intellectual assent that something is true. "Even the demons believe" ([James 2:19](#)).

Faith is intellectual assent that something is true, plus the willingness to give oneself to the practice of that truth. The demons don't do that.

Believe seems as a ongoing life project.
The name of Thomas is mentioned 11 times in the
New Testament.

Matthew 10: 3

Next were Philip and Bartholomew, and
also Thomas and Matthew the tax collector. Two
more were James, son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus.

Then Thomas, who was also called Didymus, spoke to the rest of the disciples. “Let us go also,” he said. “Then we can die with Jesus.”

John 11:16

The context of the story is that Lazarus Death, Thomas statement is very pessimistic, is a small window in the faith of this disciple.

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. So how can we know the way?”

John 14:5

The statement presents a genuine desire to find the truth and also demonstrate Thomas problem grasping with issues that He can’t explain in a complete manner.

27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.”

Jesus didn't reject Thomas' lack of Faith, he presented evidence and encouraged him to BELIEVE.

Three Basic steps to grow our faith

1. Nothing is as inspiring as seeing God moving in our midst.

An attitude of faith enables God to work miracles among us, and these miracles beget more faith, which beget more of God's visible action.

2. We can choose our attitudes.

The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the past. We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The single most significant decision we can make is the choice of our attitude.

3. *An attitude of joy is contagious.* Your attitude of joy at the Lord's work can permeate the whole congregation. Your enthusiasm and belief in the greatness of God has a way of influencing everyone in the congregation and changing their attitude into possibilities and victories. Build up your faith in God. Start seeing the mighty works of God, and your church will go on to effectiveness, health, and growth. And God will reward you according to the size of your faith and vision. He will give you that church that is full of joy and energized with confidence in God.