“I Believe” United Student Ministries Pastor Joshua 11/3/2022

**John 6:28-29**Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is **the work of God, that you believe** in Him whom He has sent."

1. **What does Believe mean? If you don’t know how do you know if you are? \*\*** The Greek word for Believe in the verse above is Pisteuo. It literally means to place confidence in, or to place faith within. The word is interchangeable with Faith and Trust. Too many students lack a strong biblical Faith in Jesus Christ and are struggling to live out their faith in this crazy world. With faith in God we can be unshakable and fearless for Him. **What is Faith?** Faith is made up of 3 things **knowledge, belief and trust** and we must progress **Knowledge:** In the progression of true faith you cannot believe in something that you **do not know about** **thoroughly**. Without knowing the full story about Jesus we can have **misguided faith**. You need to know the facts of Jesus life. The only place where His life is fully recorded is in the old and new testaments of the Bible. **Belief:** The next step to having real Faith is to receive the facts as **truth within your soul**. This means that you place the truths about Jesus in your heart and are confident in the reality of them. You believe that Jesus is who He says He is, and that what you read about Him actually happen. Simply put, you **value them.** The knowledge about Jesus are now not just some information but they are important to you and they have meaning for your life. **Trust:** To complete your faith and really possess it, you must now use it and trust in it. You take the truths you believe are facts and now live by them and let them uphold you. The difference between baby Christians and mature Christians are the track records they have in God’s promises. Mature Christians have trusted and **experienced** that God does what He said He would do.
2. **Are you full of it? What you allow in your heart will determine everything about you. \*\*** The heart is seat of everything you are and **you control the door** into it. **Proverbs 4:23** Guard your heart with all vigilance, for from it are the **sources of life**. What have you allowed to live in your heart tonight? **Jeremiah 17:9-10** "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?  "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds \*\* The human heart without God is filled with a **desperate sickness of deception**. Only God knows what’s in your heart and only He can and will give you what **you need** according to what He finds in it. Satan on the other hand can discern what’s in your heart and He will give you the deceptions within it in order to destroy you.
3. **What do you believe? What could a person learn about your beliefs by watching your life? \*\*** Sonow you know that to believe in Jesus is not just a **mental accent** to truth but according to God it is to fully place your **trust** in Him. You know that what you believe is what you have **allowed** to be put into your heart. Now you must take stock of what is really in your heart? **Hebrews 11:6** and without faith it is **impossible** to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. \*\* Like any relationship, trust is the foundation. If you always live in such a way as to doubt God’s ability or intentions, how will He be pleased with you? We must remember these 3 crucial things about God. **1. God is not like corrupt Humanity: Numbers 23:19** God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? **Does he promise and not fulfill**? **2. God is all powerful, all knowing and everywhere: Psalm 139:7-8** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from **Your presence**?  If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. **Mark 10:27** Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." \*\* **Nothing is impossible** for God because nothing is greater than God. **3.** **God is the Lord over creation: 2nd Chronicles 20:6** He prayed, "O LORD, God of our ancestors, you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty; **no one can stand against you**! **Ecclesiastes 12:14** God will judge us for **everything we do**, including every secret thing, whether good or bad. \*\* Since God is this amazing there is no reason to not pursue Him and put our trust in Him.
4. **Where will your Belief take you? Only your Faith and willingness limits you Matthew 17:20** He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. **Nothing will be impossible for you**." \*\* Through a rightly established faith in Jesus, what was once thought impossible, with God now becomes possible. **Matthew 16:18** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of **Hades** will not overcome it. \*\* Through the genuine faith established in Him Peter was transformed from “Cephas” meaning a reed tossed in the wind to Peter which means “Rock”. With our Faith intact we can be a Rock for God **in any trial or situation**.