



EVERY BELIEVER STUDIES

Session 2: The Response of Faith

MEMORY VERSE: 1 JOHN 5:11,12

"And this is the testimony, God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Let's begin with some review:

In Session #1 we considered the need mankind has for the Good News of Jesus.

- We saw that humanity has a common problem: Sin. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
- We discovered that a number of things people tend to think will make them right with God, can't really solve our problem. Doing good things, having morals (standards or values), being religious. These things can be good, but they can't take away sin's penalty or influence in our lives. "For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith, not by works so that no one can boast" (Eph. 2:8,9).
- By looking at the Bible, God's Word, we found that there is only one solution to our sin problem: Jesus. "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Let's look up some scriptures:

Look up each of the following verses and summarize in your own words what each verse indicates about God, Jesus, and human beings like us.

- > John 3:16
- > 1 Peter 3:18
- > Acts 4:12
- > Romans 5:8
- > Hebrews 2:14-15
- > Colossians 1:19-20

How can we take hold of Jesus, God's solution?

Consider each of the following parts of a Biblical faith-response to God.

• BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD -- THE ONE WHO SAVES

- > John 1:12
- > John 3:16
- > Ephesians 2:8
- > Hebrews 11:6

Discussion: *Is there a difference between active/responsive belief and passive/non-responsive belief? Consider: James 2:17-26.*

• REPENT OF YOUR SIN / TURN AWAY FROM SIN

- > Uncover your sin before God (Psalm 32:1-5)
- > A sorrow for sin and a desire to turn your life around (Acts 2:38, 3:19)

Discussion: *How is true repentance more than just admitting personal sin or weakness?*

• CONFESS JESUS AS LORD

- > Make an open declaration of your willingness to let Him rule your life.
- > Confess (admit, yield) his authority (Lord = boss)
- > Wholeheartedly seek to follow Jesus' example and teachings.
- > Matthew 10:32,33

> Romans 10:9-11

Discussion: *Why is it important to see Jesus as both "Lord" (boss, master) and "Savior" (redeemer, deliverer)? Can you see problems in leaving out one or the other?*

• **BE BAPTIZED**

- > Greek (original language) = "dipped"
- > This simple Bible way of demonstrating faith, repentance, and acceptance of Jesus' authority has been the practice of Christians since the start of the Church on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38,41).
- > An outward expression of inward faith (Galatians 3:26-28)
- > Identification with Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6)
- > An "appeal" or "pledge" to God (1 Peter 3:21)
- > A pattern established by Christ (Matt. 28:19,20)

Discussion: *Talk briefly about experiences and ideas of what baptism is from the different church backgrounds represented in your group. Based on the Bible verses listed above (you might also want to read the 2nd, 8th, and 16th chapters of Acts for some case studies), what do you think is the Biblical pattern for Baptism?*

God's Promises to Those who Respond:

- FREEDOM (John 8:36; Romans 6:18; Romans 8:1,2)
- FORGIVENESS (Acts 10:43; 1 John 1:9)
- HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 2:38,39)
- ETERNAL LIFE (1 John 5:11,12)

Think it Through and Nail It Down:

Consider carefully each of the following questions:

1. Do you understand the Good News of Jesus?
2. Have you made a biblical response of Faith?
3. If you are a believer, is there anything you need to do to complete your faith-response to God?
Have you followed the biblical example?
4. If you haven't done so already, would you like to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior?

If you have questions or would like to discuss your relationship with God, or if there is some way I can help you make a biblical faith-response, please contact our pastor or one of our church elders.