



Believe in God

Luke 6:38 *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

In Acts 16, Paul is asked how to receive God. He replies *“believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”* As hard as it is for humans to believe, it is that simple. But what must we really do to be saved? What is the cost and what physical thing must I do? Paul would still look at you and say “Just believe.” Yet, there is more to it. God is waiting for you. The blessings of God are always there waiting. So many places in the Bible say the words from God “pour out.” If we come to Him, He will pour out His love, compassion, grace, blessings, and many other good things.

Clearly, the believing part triggers blessings from heaven. Malachi 3:10 illustrates this so well *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”* It takes a measure of faith to give our hard-earned money away. If it were that easy more people would tithe. Instead about 1% of the population give anything at all to charity. Most people do not believe God.

Why? It is because believing God is risky. Again, I ask why? Your image could be tarnished if you are wrong. What if the church cheats, steals, or lies to you? The focal point is you, not God. What if the church lied to God's children? What if the church leaders stole the

money from God? What if the church did not do your idea or go your way? Is this about God or people? Who is offended: you or God? It is risky from a human point of view. What if the good name of the Lord is tarnished and you are considered part of the corrupt church? The corrupt God? Who does God really bless? It is those who do God's will and make Him and the church look good. Honestly, it is not risky at all if you are willing to take the brunt of it on this earth in the name of God. Yet, God is not asking you to fight His battles. Instead, it is to be in the fight with Him. The only thing we are really bringing to the fight is to believe.

A Christian group called The Darins sing "*all you have do is believe and let this love into your heart.*" Yet, most of us are not willing to open fully. I am curious why? Is there something deep within us that does not want to accept God as God? The Bible is clear that God has power and many other things at His disposal like angels and grace. He says how much more He would bless humans over the grass. A storehouse of blessing is there waiting to be used. Will I or you seek God so that he can throw open the gates of heaven to bless us? All you must do is believe.

Jesus never worried. I know we say that but do you really know that? In the boat Jesus was asleep during the storm. As the men came to arrest Jesus did, He panic? A mob wanted to throw Him off a cliff but Jesus' is seen walking out of the crowd calmly. In the temple, Jesus chased out the money changers. Did He then fear for His life? In Matthew 26 Jesus is found saying boldly "*Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*" Think about it. Jesus did not say one angel or just His Father in heaven. It reads that Jesus could instantly call on 12 legions of angels. The commentaries vary on how many angels that is. Let us take the smaller number of 1000. That is 12,000 angels. The question arises: how many angels are needed to rescue Jesus? The answer is that God will supply abundantly if we ask.

The point is made. The storehouse of heaven holds a large number. Is it blessings, angels, or the Spirit of God? Acts 2 records the Spirit coming down upon men. I like to think of it as a holy electric charge. It nailed over 500 men at once. That ripple affect went out to the four corners of the earth. Maybe we do not want that type of shock? What if we are truly afraid of the blessings of God. What if deep inside we believe that we could not handle it. All I know is that when God moves it tends to be big moves rather than small ones. Do you believe?

Gen 22:17 *“I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.”* How many stars were there? Can we count the sand? I suppose the Bible likes to make grand gestures. *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* It is not a small piece of real estate, is it? It is the whole universe! John opens with a description of the word. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* This is a grand statement!

I needed to set up the blessings. What we ask of God is not a small thing. Yet, it is a simple thing. All we must do is seek, ask, knock, and believe. All God must do is open the gates. I want to stress that blessings are not made by our works. They already exist. How do I know that? God says He has plans for us. Plans to prosper us. Yet, we must chase the blessings. Believe that He wants to bless us. Believe that God has our and His best interest in mind. Are there unused blessings sitting in the store house of Heaven? Next week let look at types of blessings. Begin to understand how we can receive them.