



Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE SOURCE

THE SEARCH

THE METHOD


THE APPLICATION

THE RESULT

Acts 17:11,12


Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

I BELIEVE WHAT I DO ...

- 
- **NOT** merely because of what I was taught as a child (Acts 22:3; 23:6; Phil. 3:4-10; 2 Tim. 1:5)
 - **NOT** because it is the “orthodox” position held by learned men (Acts 23:6; Phil. 3:4-10; Mat. 15:7-9; Rom. 1:22; 10:1-3; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Co. 1:20-25; Col. 2:8-10)
 - **NOT** because it is what my family and friends believe (Luke 14:25-27; Mat. 10:37; Phi. 3:8)


Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

I BELIEVE WHAT I DO ...

- 
- **NOT** Because it is convenient (Act 24:25; Luke 9:23-26; Mat. 7:13,14; 2 Tim 3:12)
 - **NOT** Because it is what I want to believe (Is. 30:9–11; Jer. 5:30; 10:23; Rom. 1:24, 25; 2 Tim. 4:3,4; 2 Thes 2:10-12)
 - **NOT** Because of my emotional feelings or current circumstances (Pr. 28:26; Jer. 17:9; Pr. 14:12; 16:25; Eph. 4:14; Rom. 16:17,18)

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

I BELIEVE WHAT I DO ...

- 
- **Because I was taught as a child to believe what the scriptures teach, NOT what men teach (Acts 17:11,12; Jn 20:30,31; 1 Pt. 4:11)**
 - **Because I have searched, and continue to search the scriptures to prove what I believe (Acts 17:11,12; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16,17)**
 - **Because I know God's word is TRUE and anything different from what God says is false (Rom 3:4; 10:17; John 17:17)**

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE BIBLE IS ONLY VALID SOURCE

SOURCE: GOD BREATHED

The scriptures are from God

PURPOSE: OUR GUIDANCE

in teaching, proving, correcting,
instructing in what is right ...

SUFFICIENT IN GUIDANCE

Provides all God wants us to be,
& equips for all He wants done.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by
inspiration of God, and is
profitable for doctrine, for
reproof, for correction, for
instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷
that the man of God may be
complete, thoroughly equipped
for every good work.

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE BIBLE IS ONLY VALID SOURCE

The baptism of John — where was it from? From heaven or from men?

Matthew 21:25-26



From Heaven

Mt. 21:23-27

1 John 4:4-6

Gal. 1:6-9

Col. 2:6-10

2 Thess. 2:15

Only Two
Possible
Sources

From Men

Mt. 15:1-9

1 Cor. 4:6


Gal. 1:10-17

Col. 2:8

2 Thess. 2:2-4

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE BIBLE IS ONLY VALID SOURCE

- 
- A person wearing a dark suit is holding an open Bible. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the person's hands are visible holding the edges of the pages. The background is a light, neutral color.
- We cannot GO BEYOND what is written (1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Jn. 9-11)
 - We cannot ADD TO or TAKE FROM God's revelation (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Pr. 30:5-6; Gal. 3:15; Rev. 22:18-19; 1 Pet. 4:11)
 - We CANNOT believe, teach or practice that which God has NOT authorized by His revelation, (*God's silence is not permissive*) (Col. 3:17; Rom. 10:17; 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb 7:11-14)

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE BIBLE IS ONLY VALID SOURCE

Walking by faith means walking by what God has said
2 Cor. 5:7; 1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Pet. 4:11

We cannot know
the mind of God
except through
revelation

1 Cor 2:10, 11, 14

Eph 3:3-5

Isaiah 55:8,9

**Faith
comes by
hearing
God's
WORD**
ROMANS 10:17

God has revealed
everything He wants
us to believe, teach
& practice

2 Pet 1:3;

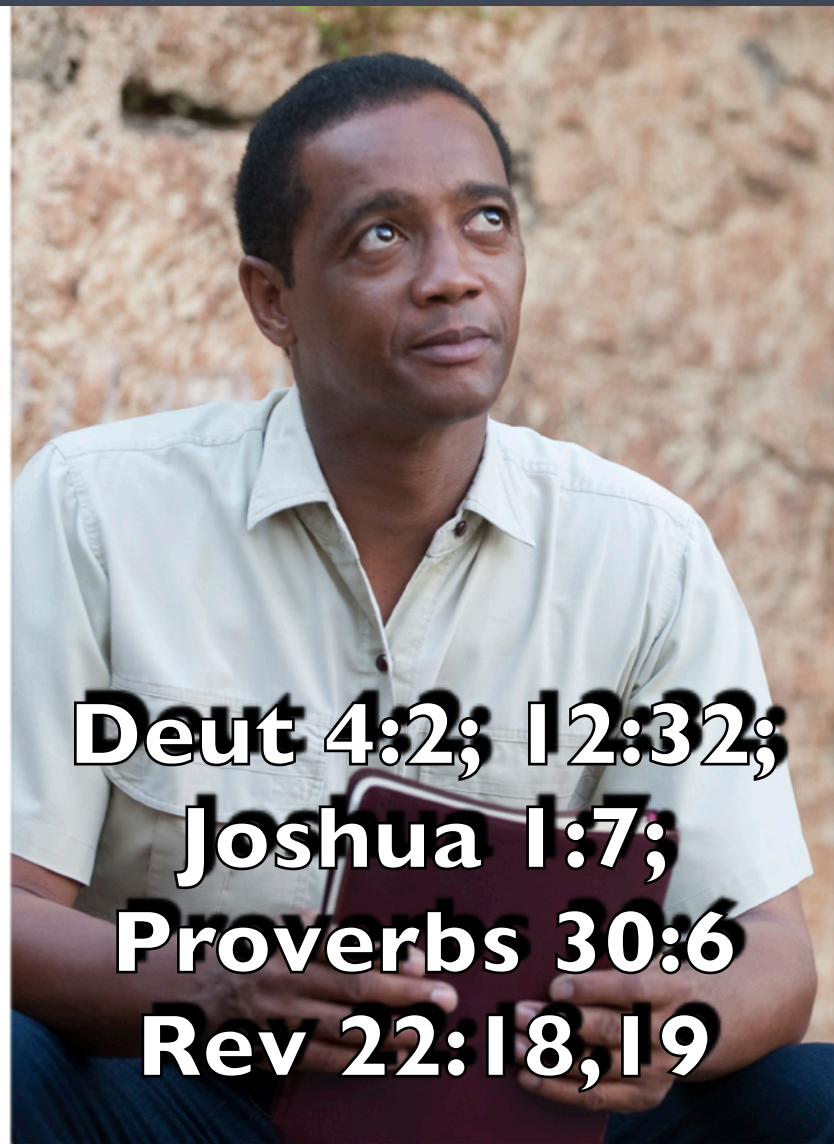
2 Tim 3:16, 17

Jude 3

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE BIBLE IS ONLY VALID SOURCE

WE DARE NOT ACT WHERE GOD HAS NOT SPOKEN
2 Cor. 5:7; 1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Pet. 4:11



**Deut 4:2; 12:32;
Joshua 1:7;
Proverbs 30:6
Rev 22:18,19**

- **Cain** (Gen. 4:7) Heb 11:4
- **Nadab and Abihu** (Lev. 10:1,2)
- **Moses** (Num 20:8-24)
- **King Saul** (1 Sam. 13 & 15)
- **David's ox cart** (1 Chr. 13:7-12; 15:2)
- **Jeroboam** (1 Kings 12:25-33)
- **Uzziah** (2 Chr. 26:16-23)

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

Acts 17:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. ¹²

Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.



Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.



Why Do We Believe What We Believe?


THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH



- We **MUST READ** God's word (Deut 17:19; Josh. 8:34; Neh. 8:8; Luke 10:26; Eph. 3:4,5; Col. 4:16; etc.)
- We **MUST STUDY** God's word; i.e., we **MUST HANDLE IT CORRECTLY** (2 Tim. 2:15; Heb. 5:11–14)


Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

- 
- Realize TRUTH matters (John 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:22)
 - Humility / meekness (Mt 5:3-5; Ja 1:21; John 7:17)
 - Develop a love & hunger for God & His word (Mt 5:6)
 - Desire to please Him (Col. 1:10)
 - Zeal - Be diligent in your search for truth - being honest w/ the Bible (2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:11)

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH



The totality of information revealed regarding any belief, teaching, or practice is the TRUTH regarding that belief, teaching, or practice.


Ps 119:160

2 Timothy 1:13;

2 Peter 1:3;

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH




Truth is not
contingent upon one's
belief in it, altered by
ones rejection of it, or
nullified if no one
accepts it

TRUTH IS TRUTH

(John 17:17; Psalm 19:7-9; 119:9,11,104)

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH




If you feel that the truth is NOT the truth
- no matter how strong those feelings may be –

**THE TRUTH IS
STILL THE TRUTH!**

(John 17:17; Psalm 19:7-9; 119:9,11,104)

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH



If you feel that a LIE
is the truth - no
matter how strong
that feeling may be –
**A LIE IS STILL A LIE
& THE TRUTH IS
STILL THE TRUTH!**

(John 17:17; Psalm 19:7-9; 119:9,11,104)

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH


**Anything different
from the truth – is
NOT the truth –**

- TRUTH IS NARROW!
(Mat 7:13,14)
- TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE!
(Ps 119:151;152)
- TRUTH IS VALUABLE!
(Prov. 23:23)

(John 17:17; Psalm 19:7-9; 119:9,11,104)

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

WHAT SHOULD WE BELIEVE ABOUT:

- 
- A person wearing a dark suit is holding an open Bible. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the person's hands are visible holding the edges of the pages. The background is a light, neutral color.
- How a lost sinner can be saved? (Rom. 10:17; 10:9,10; Acts 17:30; 2:38; Heb. 3:14)
 - The church Jesus built? (Mat. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:24)
 - What God accepts as true worship? (Jn 4:24; Acts 20:7; Eph. 5:19)
 - The organization and work of the church (Phil. 1:1; Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Cor 11:22,34)

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?



Believe

Repent

Confess

Hear

Baptized

Endurance

Luke 8:11; Rom. 10:17

John 8:24; Heb 11:6

Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30

Mat. 10:32,33; Rom 10:9

Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet 3:21

Heb 4:11; Col 1:23

A man in a dark suit and white shirt is holding an open Bible. The background is a solid blue-grey color.

Why Do We Believe What We Believe?

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When we believe, teach and practice **ONLY** what is taught in the Bible, we **KNOW** we are pleasing to God!

Acts 17:11,12

A man in a dark suit and white shirt is holding an open Bible. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the man's hands are visible holding the edges of the pages. The background is a solid blue color.

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When we believe, teach
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Acts 17:11,12

John 20:26–29 (NKJV)

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and ^areach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be ^bunbelieving, but believing.”

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus said to him, ⁶“Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. ^cBlessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.”

How Faith Relates to Your Feelings

Bill Scott, a West Virginia preacher, relates an incident told by a helicopter pilot who flew from an aircraft carrier in the Pacific.

“I was flying the helicopter back to the ship when a blinding fog rolled in. Flying at a low altitude, I knew that a single mistake would plunge my crew and me into the ocean. Worse yet, I was experiencing a complete loss of balance — which is common for pilots flying by instruments. This loss of balance was so bad that despite the instrument readings I was certain that I was lying on my side.”

“For 15 minutes.” the pilot agonized as he relied solely on his instruments. He admitted that he fought “the urge to turn it according to my feeling.” Then suddenly when they broke safely through the fog, he said, “I was deeply thankful I had been trained to rely upon my instruments rather than on my feelings.” Religiously, too many people rely on undependable and fleeting feelings. Erwin W. Lutzer was right when he wrote, “A Christian life based on feeling is headed for a gigantic collapse.” Or crash.

I’ve had Christians say, “I don’t feel saved,” because the fog of doubt, discouragement or even despair has enveloped them. They’re allowing a temporary emotion to cloud what they know is true.

On the other hand, I’ve heard of people basing their salvation on some hyper-emotional experience. One lady described her salvation experience at a religious revival as an out of body experience. She said she felt like she was floating on air. She felt as light as a feather. She felt something she’d never experienced. She felt like she was saved.

When a preacher questioned if she really was floating, she admitted she wasn’t. He delicately asked the slightly over-weight woman, if she was as light as a feather, she curtly replied, “No.” “Well maybe you’re not saved either, the preacher suggested.

The Bible teaches that “we walk by faith and not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7). Faith is the solid foundation of our eternal hope. The Bible says, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” ([Heb. 11:1](#)).

Furthermore, our faith is founded on facts. We’re not flying blindly into clouds. We have our “instruments,” to guide us. God’s revealed Word. The Bible tells us that we’ve all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory (Rom. 3:23). But He loves us and wants us to be saved ([Jn 3:16](#)). That’s why Jesus Christ died for our sins ([Rom 5:8](#)). And his triumphant victory over death through his resurrection assures us that we too will be raised (1 Cor. 15).

The book of Acts tells the story of salvation. People who received God’s saving grace heard the Gospel of Christ. Believed. Repented of their sins. And were [baptized](#) for the remission of sins (Acts 2). As a result, God added them to the body of the saved, called the church (Acts 2:47). Those are the facts. Interestingly, when people by faith obeyed the gospel, a good feeling followed. Sinners saved like the Ethiopian Treasurer “went on their way rejoicing.” Your conscience will be clean and clear (1 Peter 3:21). Like the man who found the lost sheep or the woman who found the lost coin, you will share your excitement with others (Lk. 15:7-10).

Faith generates joy (Phil. 1:25). And even allows us to face life’s troubles and trials with a joyful spirit (1 Pet. 1:7-9). There will even be occasions, like in the parable of the prodigal son, where a Christian goes astray. Leaves the Father. And goes into the far country of sin. But when the wayward one returns there will be tears of joy. And a celebration when they come home.

True Christianity is not devoid of emotion. But our feelings are based on faith and rooted in the reliable facts of the gospel. Objective Truth must be subordinate to our feelings, moods, and opinions.

The connection between these concepts is summed up in this short verse by an unknown author.

Three men were walking on a wall,
Feeling, Faith and Fact,
When Feeling got an awful fall,
And Faith was taken back.
So close was Faith to Feeling
He stumbled and fell too,
But Fact remained and pulled Faith back,
And Faith brought Feeling too.

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman