

Believing Something Doesn't Make It A Fact

I. Introduction:

A. The children of Israel, while in sin, believed that God was not going to carry out judgment against them (**Jeremiah 5:1-13**).

1. Sinners have long believed they were "okay" (**Psalms 10:1-11** and **Malachi 2:17**).

2. People can convince themselves that judgment will not come upon them and thus become spiritually complacent (**Zephaniah 1:12**).

B. Consider where some of us have been. Think about how many of us had been taught **Romans 8:28** meant things always turn out, even physically, okay...

1. Yet, that isn't contextually accurate (**Romans 8:28-39**).

2. It isn't rooted in biblically tested facts either (**John 16:33**, **Acts 12:1-2**, **Acts 14:19-23**, **I Peter 2:20-21**, etc.).

3. Yet, with pure motives, some of us have "believed" things blindly without real evidence (ex. **John 16:1-3**; cf. **Acts 22:1-5**; **23:1**; **26:9-11**).

II. Body: Faith Is Not Blind, Fact-less, And/Or Ignorant (**Hebrews 11:1**).

A. God expects us to prove [test; examine] all things (**I Thessalonians 5:21**).

1. How many of us know **Acts 17:10-11**? Do we apply it?

2. Think about the process of "searching the Scriptures" (**John 5:14-39** and **Luke 24:25-27**).

3. Many have wasted their time opening Scriptures, but not properly understanding and testing them (**Acts 13:27**; cf. **John 5:45-47**).

B. False conclusions can arise from a lack of understanding (**Mark 8:14-21**).

1. One may read **Matthew 21:22** or **Mark 11:24** and pray with "faith".

2. Yet, is it tested, understood, etc.? What does the context say, to whom, and why (**Matthew 21:18-22** and **Mark 11:20-24**)?

a. It was said to His apostles for a reason (**Romans 15:18-19** and **II Corinthians 12:12**)?

b. What does the full application mean (**Mark 16:14-20**; cf. **Acts 9:36-43** and **Acts 28:1-10**)?

c. Can't twist "healings", prayer, and start the "through the hands of doctors" garbage (**Mark 5:21-34**).

3. If I read an Apostle doing something, does that mean if I believe I can do it too that it will happen (**Acts 19:11-16**)?

C. A real test of YOUR faith - what are you doing with it (**James 2:14-26**)?

1. If I REALLY believe it, am I doing it (**Hebrews 11:7-10**)?

2. Being "cautiously optimistic" or "hoping it its true" is NOT proper faith (**Matthew 14:22-33**).

3. At the same time, people have moved zealously in ignorance (**Romans 10:1-3**).

4. So, we have to come back to - DO WE KNOW (**I John 5:13; 19-20**), from searching of the Scriptures, that this is right before we believe it.

III. Conclusion: Do you have an informed, fully persuaded faith (**II Timothy 1:8-13**)?