

I Believe In The Lord?

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. Rom 10:9-10

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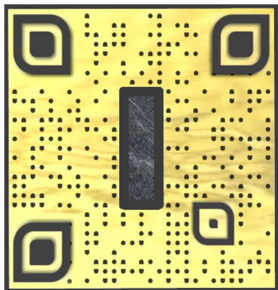
by Kevin Barr

from “A Collection of Short Letters”

found at <https://PeaceAndGodWill.com>



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This booklet contains the contents of two letters from
the website that can help readers more fully
understand the meaning of Romans 10:9-10

So, What Is A “Lord” Anyway?

We tend to use the word "lord" informally, sometimes even with a lack of respect or as a mild epithet. We may refer to cultural idols as "lords", or understand that a lord, as in "landlord", has very little authority over their own property so their rules can be ignored. But at a minimum the word is similar to the word "sir", and is supposed to be used to show respect to someone (as in the "Lord" and "Sir" titles used in Britain). And historically the idea of a lord over the land a person lived in included lots of authority over the residents, with potentially severe repercussions for disrespecting that authority.

In the Bible, the word "lord" is frequently used as a respectful way to address a person, but when referring to God (the Father or Jesus) He is always the "Lord of lords", on a much higher level. He is Jehovah/Yahweh/LORD, a reference to the original declaration from God

to Moses that He is the "I Am", meaning every thing in every way to every person at every time. Later it is made clear that Jesus is this same "I Am". The reverence due Him as the Creator of all people and things is much greater than most people will offer Him.

There are Bible verses about Jesus being a friend to those that believe in Him. But there are many more verses about how being His friend means obeying Him and deferring to His authority, even by letting Him place a yoke on us. When He paints a picture of Himself as a vine with His believers attached to Him as branches, He isn't just saying He provides all the sustenance His believers need. He is also saying that like the branches can only produce the kind of fruit the vine determines for them, believers must also defer to Him as the provider of all knowledge that shapes what the believer becomes.

The chief early followers of Jesus taught that they were (and we should be) "bond servants"

of His. The definition of a bond servant is found in the Old Testament. It is a slave that was freed but decided that life was better with his master so he voluntarily gave up his freedom to become a willing slave for life, sealed with a permanent ear piercing ("bond") so all people would know he was irreversibly owned by his master. Bond slaves know that they are deferring to their master's desire for all of the slave's decisions and behaviors. This indicates that life as a Christian is a far cry from the idea that Jesus loves me so He wants to support whatever decisions I want to make about my life! The goal is not to learn how to use Him as a handy copilot to better our lives; it is to allow Him to be THE pilot as we learn how to let Him guide our lives. So consider what the word "Lord" means to you now, and see if you can do this:

If you declare with your mouth (meaning with witnesses), "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your

heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom 10:9

P.S.

America's chief guiding principles originally came from documents like the Bible, the Magna Carta, and the American Constitution. Some people believe that these are "living" documents that should be adapted by new, more liberal interpretations as society changes over time. Other people believe that the creators of these documents knew what they were doing so a conservative approach that honors the original intent is required. As for re-interpreting the Bible to allow for modern desires, always remember these verses:

Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today, and forever. Heb 13:8

"I am the LORD, and I do not change;" Mal 3:6a

What Does “Believe” Mean In The Bible?

The word "believe" is an example of a word whose meaning has been corrupted over time so it is harder to understand the Bible's intent when using it. Examples like, "I'm a believer now!", "Seeing is believing!", or choosing a 'belief system' are proper, but "I believe we've met" is more like "maybe", and an older kid still saying they believe in santa to keep getting presents has belief weakened by doubt. Or a person may not want to think and determine for themselves what to believe so they ignore the doubts and deceive themselves with a lie they say they believe. So "believe" is supposed to be like "abide" (live by, accept as truth after objective study to overcome shallow ignorance and bias), not like "maybe" or "doubt" or self-deception.

An example of a topic that every single person ever born has some type of understanding of "believe" is gravity. From birth they are testing and learning the laws of

gravity and know that it is real. They have a type of faith in it even though they can't see it and don't understand the science of it. People with a more juvenile idea of believing will assume things about gravity and their abilities instead of learning first and then obeying what they have learned. They risk being harmed by their poor choices (pride and ignorance make them believe in maybes and self-deceptions). They may err on the side of convenience and defy gravity by assuming they can jump across an obstacle instead of determining what the odds are of making it, risking harm. They are also more likely to disrespect the laws of gravity by ignoring what they have learned, and need frequent reminders like slipping on ice or falling into the fountain at the mall because they are not paying enough attention (respect) to the rules.

Other people choose to learn what to believe about how gravity works and the benefits and risks of obeying or disregarding what they

have learned. The harm they suffer when they ignore the rules removes any doubt that gravity is real and must be obeyed. The more they learn, the more firm their belief and the more "maybes" and "doubts" they remove from their intent to obey. If they are confronted with a choice of leaping across a ditch or taking the long way around, they consider their options and abilities and make an informed decision about what to do. If they decide the jump is too risky they will err on the side of caution and walk the long way around. They are living by, abiding in, obeying what they have chosen to believe.

Faith in an idea is what causes a person to test and prove something is true and leads to believing in it. Believing in it and seeing the success when following it and the failure when ignoring it leads to knowing the importance of obeying it. Seeing the success from obeying it leads to wondering what other faith ideas should be tested and added to the

beliefs that must be obeyed. This cycle eventually creates a 'belief system' for the person, they are becoming a disciplined student (disciple) of it, learning what works IF they obey. So the definition of believe actually includes faithfulness, loyalty and obedience.

Believing in something means living in it, abiding by it, staying true to it. The same is true for human ideas like believing in how to improve health by changing diet and fitness and Godly ideas like believing in what the Bible teaches about the sacrifice of Christ (Rom 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved). In John 1:12-13 Jesus says that only believers can be a part of Him, and in Eph 1:13 Paul tells us that believing this results in receiving the permanent gift of the Holy Spirit,

but Acts 5:32 says the Holy Spirit is only given by God to those that obey Him. So believing in Christianity requires obedience to it.

Choosing to accept the truth of Christianity and developing a belief system in it to live by is a lifelong process, with a path similar to:

- First the person realizes that what they used to believe about their own "goodness" isn't true, that they are falling short of what God intended people to be and they cannot fix it by themselves, so they really are part of Romans 3:23: (For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God).
- This makes them realize how badly they need an advocate to enable a right relationship for them with God: (Rom 6:23b For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord).
- So they start to learn who this advocate is and how to get His help: (Luke 5:31-32 And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well

have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance").

- This call from Jesus about the need to repent (an action item meaning change direction permanently) reinforces the shame we felt when we realized how far off of God's mark we are: (2Cor 7:10a For Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret).
- So we start the process of learning how to live for Him: (Acts 2:38 ...“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”).
- Now armed with God's indwelling Spirit and the bit of wisdom we have acquired, we realize that the belief system we are developing is a total and full-time commitment to change away from what the world has taught us before: (Rom 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will).

- This results in understanding what this quote from Jesus in Matthew 21:22 actually means: ("If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."). The world sees it as a sort of catch-22, if someone is brainwashed into submitting to a cult then of course they will only want what the cult tells them to want. But a believer understands they now have access to the truth, and allowing their minds to be reshaped by God's teachings means they will only want to ask Him for what they know He thinks is good.

People with a more juvenile idea about believing may say they believe in Jesus but actually don't know what to believe or even know Him. Their idea of hope for a future with Him is like thinking they can win the lottery just because they have a ticket and are deserving of a lucky break. They have no reason to believe their hopes will come true because they have not been studying and developing their relationship with Him. They are vulnerable to the popular "ear-tickling" lies that the Apostle Paul warned about in 2Timothy 4:3-4. This also means they will have fear from doubt near the end of their physical life about what their eternity will be. Their belief is so weak and ill or uninformed it may actually be unbelief so they may suffer the same eternal separation from God that all other unbelievers are doomed to. People that have studied their relationship with God enough to become disciples have enough faith to feel a certainty about what they believe (2Corinthians 13:5). They can live free from

doubt (James 1:6) with an expectation that their hopes are true, so they have less or no fear during this life or while contemplating their eternity. As in James 1:22-25, they have heard and looked at God's Word, decided to believe it, and are learning to live by what God is teaching them.

Sometimes people can be firmly convinced they believe in something about themselves even though they have never really examined themselves (or have been tested with it!). If they are stubborn, a serious intervention may be required to get them to start to look in the mirror and re-evaluate their understanding.

The apostle Peter really believed he would follow Jesus anywhere until he denied even knowing Jesus three times after Jesus predicted it to him (Luke chapter 22). He wept bitterly as he realized how little he actually knew about his own character (heart).

Thank You for reading this story from
"A Collection of Short Letters", found at

PeaceAndGodWill.com

Here are some excerpts from other letters there:

Reconcile Your Account!

A common use of the word 'reconcile' is when a person receives their monthly statement and corrects the mistakes they have made so they can defer to the bank's authority. ...In Christianity the word 'reconciled' is used to describe the relationship a person can have with their Creator, BUT people that insist on an 'equal partnership' with God can never be reconciled with Him, just like people who insist that their checkbook balance is the correct one will have conflict with their bank until their account is eventually closed.

Freedom of Choice vs. Free Will to Choose

Free will is an attribute God gives to all people starting with Adam and Eve (even before the Fall). It includes mental tools like

curiosity and imagination... and a conscience to help us determine proper and bad choices. ...If Jesus says "take my yoke and learn from me and I will give you rest" (Mat 11:29), He is saying something akin to IF you eat your broccoli THEN you can have some pie. FOC people ...assume that Jesus wants to give them pie, they don't even try to understand the broccoli part. FWTC people study the whole statement and realize that they are responsible for part of how to get the pie.

Indulge Your Contentment!

...so for the world contentment is like identifying an appetite so that indulging the appetite will cause a feeling of contentment.

But indulging an appetite means that the satisfied feeling is only temporary, and more getting will be required soon, so there is no real or lasting contentment. True and lasting contentment is a type of peace. It comes from believing in a Provider (of manna?) that will always arrange for sufficiency, so having a

relationship with Him is required to be a complete person that can enjoy contentment. Developing our relationship with God gives us the discipline of a disciple, making the carnal appeal of appetites weaker and dimmer in our mind as we hear God's Spirit in us guiding our conscience getting louder.

What Is The Bible?

The Bible is a collection of books and letters recording the history of persons and people of God, and others apart from God. It is a gift from our Creator that teaches us His ways of how to have a relationship with our own mind and body, with other Godly or ungodly people, and with God Himself. So the Bible is an owner's manual for how to be a person.

Consider the idea of a parent who knows they are going to die but has time to prepare a journal to give to their young child. At first the child sees it as just a souvenir to remember their lost parent. As they read it over time they learn that their parent is

teaching them how to live a successful life.

The child is bonding to the book as a representation of the parent they cannot see face to face, so they love the book and want to spend time with it. They don't try to find excuses to only see it but not read it. The value and love it represents isn't in the cover, it is in the contents. This is how followers of Christ should think of the Bible.

However a person cannot understand the Bible without God's help with interpreting it. Every person has a natural bias from their sin nature that causes them to want to see the interpretation that appeals to them instead of God's intention, and no person can always overcome that bias. Also the original revelations from God to the authors of the books (the "God Breathed" version) were recorded in their native language with all of it's word and phrase definitions and the cultural understanding of the times. All translations from the original, whether...

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by Kevin@PeaceAndGodWill.com



Check out my guy
Kevin's great
Bible letters,
t-shirts, mugs & stuff
he's the best! -Simba



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Love Flows
Downhill



We love because God first loved us.

The grace of God has appeared,
offering the gift of salvation to all

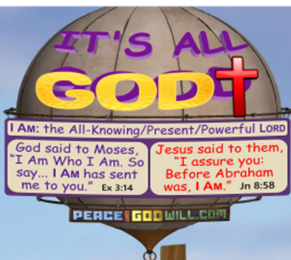
Titus 2:11



Pursue peace with everyone,
and holiness, for without it no
one will see the **LORD**
Heb 12:14

Let the peace of Christ rule
in your hearts, as members
of one body you were called

Col 3:15a



I AM: the All-Knowing/Present/Powerful LORD
God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say... I AM has sent me to you." Ex 3:14
Jesus said to them, "I assure you: Before Abraham was, I AM." Jn 8:58

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I, the LORD, search the heart,
to give to each man according
to his ways. Jer 17:10 SO...

Examine yourselves to see if you
are in the faith; to know if Jesus
Christ is in you. 2Cor 13:5

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Justified by faith, we have peace with
God through our Lord Jesus Christ Rom 5:1

Those
who love
God's
law have
great
peace
Ps 119:168

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