

## Faith and Believing

**II Corinthians 13:5, 6** – “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. <sup>6</sup>But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.”

- “**examine yourselves**” – take a close look at your life (of faith), particularly your thoughts and behavior. [Imperative]
- “**test yourselves**” – take a close look at your life (of faith) to see whether it is genuine or not. [as metals] [Imperative]
- “**disqualified**” – not genuine. [Not questioning salvation, but are they actually walking in the faith they profess]

**Hebrews 11:6** – *But without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must **believe** that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

- **Faith** (PISTIS – Noun) – persuasion; moral conviction of the truthfulness of God; assurance, belief, fidelity.
  - Something I have. [Mk. 11:22; Rm. 12:3; II Peter 1:1]
  - Wrong belief = if God gives me some faith...
- **Believe** (PISTEUO – Verb) – to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in; to entrust a thing to one.
  - Something I do.
  - Believe in your heart – immovable trust.
  - Confess with your mouth.

**Matthew 9:27-31** – *When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of David, have mercy on us!”*

- **Note**: Some say they didn’t receive (yet) because they referred to Jesus as “*Son of David.*” [A messianic title]
  - **Isaiah 35:5** – *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*
- **Note also** that you couldn’t say they weren’t sincere.

- **Notice** that Jesus didn't say to the two blind men, "Well, because you are sincere and honest, go your way and see." Although people should be sincere, they must also believe.
- **Note:** These two blind men who followed Jesus from Jairus' house, crying, "*Thou Son of David, have mercy on us,*" were still blind after calling out to Jesus.

<sup>28</sup> *And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you **believe** that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."*

- **Note:** Even when they came into the house – into the Presence of Jesus – they were still blind.
- **Jesus' question:** "*Do you believe?*" **Their answer:** "*Yes, Lord!*"

<sup>29</sup> *Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."* <sup>30</sup> *And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."* <sup>31</sup> *But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.*

- **Note** – when they believed, they had!
- **John 6:47** – *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who **believes** in Me **has** everlasting life.*
  - **Note: vs. 29** contains what could be called the great law of faith: "according to your faith let it be to you."