Destiny Newsletter

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YET BELIEVING

From the Writings of Dave Breese

There's a wonderful title that has long been applied, even by the world, to Christians. To be called by that title should be seen as a great compliment to all of us who know Christ. That title is embraced by one word— "believer." That title expresses the core of Christianity in that it points up the fact that Christianity, above all other things, is a matter of faith. The child of God, above many other ways of describing him, is a believer. Regularly we must remind ourselves that a Christian is a person who believes something.

The sinner, if he wants to become a Christian, can only become one by believing. No one is a Christian because of what he does, what he plans, what he regrets, what he aspires to none of these make a Christian.

> "Faith, believing, is the basis of all the other joys and blessings of life."

One moves from sin to righteousness, from darkness to light because he believes something. There is, and indeed there could be, no other way.

What do I believe that makes me a Christian? I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for my sins on Calvary's cross. When I believe that, embracing Christ as my Savior, I am born again. There has come to pass in my life the wonderful promise that says, "He that believes on Him is not condemned" (John 3:18). Becoming a Christian is a matter of faith—faith alone in Christ alone. It is believing that makes the difference.

Having settled this, let us remember another great truth about faith. Faith, believing, is the basis of all the other joys and blessings of life.

Most earnestly the Apostle Peter speaks to us saying, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom, having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see Him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (I Peter 1:7-9).

In the middle of this passage we notice a delightful two-word couplet which we do well never to forget. It is in the words "yet believing."

The Lord is telling us here that whatever we know or do not know, whatever we can prove or cannot prove, whether we face trials or blessings, the way these things impact upon our lives is that they are fed through the conduit of faith. Whatever we have not seen, "yet believing" we rejoice with joy unspeakable. The greatest reassurance in life comes to us when we appreciate what this means. We must think about this.

First of all, we are reminded that we have not seen Christ. Not a single Christian who has lived since the days of the closing of the New Testament has seen Jesus Christ face-to-face. The world, noticing this, many times moves in for the attack. The unregenerate man says, "How can you depend upon the truth of a person whom you have not seen?" "Why do you embrace this religion that is centered upon an invisible person?" The answer is "yet believing."

When we believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God fills our hearts with a joyous assurance of which the world knows nothing. To the world, faith is mere presumption. Christian, faith is the

"substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). This is why Christianity is called "the faith which was once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

We have not been delivered from human trials. Pressures, problems, temptations, mental anxiety, physical sickness, and a hundred other pains may come upon the life of a Christian. Many religious promoters will tell us that health and wealth are inevitably the right of a Christian. If one listens to them carefully, he will note that they lie about other things as well.

The Word says, "For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:22,23).

Yes, the Christian often cries for deliverance from the same human pains that afflict the world. But, for the Christian, there is a marvelous difference. It consists in "believing."

The Christian, because of his faith, knows that physical pains are temporal, heaven's rejoicing is eternal. For him, the heaviest problems of life are but "our light affliction, which is but for a moment" and they work "for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (II Cor. 4:17).

Yes, the Christian may face physical limitations; yet believing, he can rise above them. "The world appears to be a difficult place, but we, yet believing, can accomplish great things for Him."

The Christian may endure financial reverses; yet believing, he lives by wealth from on High.

The Christian may be disappointed in the fidelity of his friends; yet believing, he embraces Christ as a "friend that sticks closer than a brother."

The Christian may be called upon to suffer; yet believing, he knows that these very sufferings can be used to the glory of God.

The Christian may be fatigued from the toils of the way; yet believing, he receives strength from on High.

The Christian may be persecuted; yet believing, he hears the Lord say, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake."

The Christian may be forsaken by his mother and his father; yet believing, he knows that no one can take away his relationship as a child of God. Believing, he knows that the Lord will take him up.

The Christian may lose status with a fickle community; yet believing, he rejoices in his status before God as a believer, which he can never lose.

The Christian may face many a frustration; yet believing, he notes that "many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psa. 34:19).

About every concern of life, the Scripture says, "Yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."

Discouragement, depression, sadness a t our human circumstances should never determine, even for a moment, the state of the Christian. Rather, he has learned in everything to give thanks. Circumstances that may be thought untoward to someone else cause him to rejoice with joy unspeakable and causes his trusting heart to be filled with a sense of the glory of God.

We do well, therefore, to dispel ourselves of the notion that Christianity is merely a lifestyle, a set of religious observances, or a cultural identification. No indeed! Christianity is a faith, "the faith which was once delivered to the saints."

In these pragmatic, phenomenonalistic days, the idea of faith can recede into the background. We then risk forgetting the beautiful truth that no one will accomplish good things unless those things stem from a great faith.

The world appears to be a difficult place, but we, yet believing, can accomplish great things for Him. Problems press upon us today, but, yet believing, we can turn them into tomorrow's great accomplishments.

THE TIDE OF OUR TIMES

"CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU LEARNED AT COLLEGE,

America from its inception has been a religious country, and was designed to be one. [...]

Once almost universally acknowledged to be founded by religious men whose values were grounded in the Jewish and Christian Scriptures, the average college graduate is now ignorant of the religious bases of this society, and certain that it was founded to be, and has always been, a secular society. [...]

The evidence is overwhelming that the Founders were religious people who wanted a religious country that enshrined liberty for all its citizens, including those of different religions and those of no faith. [...] "

Dennis Prager, The Washington Times

"GOOD NEWS FROM IRAQ! [...]

The international media will NOT report on what is going on in Iraq in terms of the spread of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. But, it is very exciting. [...] Without exaggeration, thousands of people are turning from Islam to faith in Jesus Christ in the Kurdish region of Iraq, sometimes referred to as 'Kurdishtan.' [...]

Those who have been terrorists are also converting to faith in Jesus Christ in record numbers. The evangelical church in Kirkuk is continuing to grow as crowds come to hear God's Word! [...]"

David Hocking, Prophecy Watch

"THE BASSIJ, ISRAEL'S ENEMY FROM IRAN--The world now knows the fiery rhetoric of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. What is less known is the group he comes from, called the 'Bassij'. The Bassij is one of the most committed enemies of Israel and the United States in the world today. [...] It claims as many as three million members in reserve, but tens of thousands serve full time and follow a radical ideology. [...]

[...] While many Iranians

detest the Bassij, this group sees itself as a vanguard of Shiite Islam that will help prepare the way of the Islamic Messiah, the Mahdi, and defeat the West. [...]" Chris Mitchell,

CBN News

"[...] STATISTICS
SAY that religious
Americans give four
times as much money
to charity each year
thansecularpeopleand
are 23 times more likely
to volunteer to help
people than folks who
neverattendchurch. [...]"
Bill O'Reilly, The Washington Times

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"THE EU FLAG WAS RAISED in

Bucharest on January 1 as Romania and Bulgaria became the newest nations in the now 27-member bloc. [...]

With the expansion, the EU gains almost 30 million new citizens and sees its borders stretched eastward to the Black Sea. The new countries already are new NATO members, helping to project stability in a volatile region. And their accession 17 years after they shrugged off more than four decades of communist rule is seen by some as the final nail in the coffin of the Cold War. [...]

'After the accession in 2004 of 10 countries from Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean area, the EU is now completing the reunification of the European continent.' [...]"

Gareth Harding, The Washington Times

"THE FIRST THREE VERSES OF GENESIS accurately express all known aspects of the creation (Genesis 1:1-3). Science expresses the universe in terms of: time, space, matter, and energy. In Genesis chapter one we read: 'In the beginning (time) God created the heavens (space) and the earth (matter)... Then God said, 'let there be light (energy).""101Scientific Facts&Foreknowledge

Emergence

I see more clearly now,
The mists of morn have lifted,
Revealing here the path of life
From which my heart had drifted.
For vision, indistinct in youth,
Grows clearer with the years
If subject to the press of life
And washed by time and tears.

I love more purely now,
 'tis more than mere emotion.
For feeling is to real love
 As mountain stream to ocean.
And love invades the intellect
 And love empow'rs the will
The heart endowing with a voice
That time can never still.

I move more surely now
My life has found its reason.
A holy purpose now pervades
Each day and every season,
For God has made me like Himself
I see this now, as never;
Perceiving this, I see in Him
My Destiny, forever.

by Dave Breese

Y OUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. How can I retain my faith when so many bad things have happened to me?

A. The Apostle Paul had the answer to this when he said, "But I would vou should understand, brethren, that the things which happened to me have fallen out rather to the furtherance of the gospel" (Phil. 1:12). Paul wrote these words from a prison cell, which was certainly a painful human experience, but even there he announced that his bonds in Christ became a great testimony for the Lord. Do not think that only pleasurable experiences will be ours as Christians. Paul said, "For to you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake' (Phil. 1:29). The spiritually perceptive will always find a way to use the circumstances of life as a testimony of Christ.

Q. Why are so many things about God and Christianity so hard to understand?

A. First of all, we must remember that God is bigger than we are and even if He explained everything, much would still be hard to understand. We do not understand all of the functions of the human body or the nature of light, but still we use and rejoice in the existence of these things. So the Bible says, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? or who has been His counselor?" (Rom. 11:33,34). Therefore, the Bible tells us that "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17). Indeed, we have no

alternative. Remember also that we are supposed to be studious Christians. In Christ are "hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). Searching the Scripture will make many things understandable.

Q. Why are there so many differences between Christians?

A. First of all, we must remind ourselves that some Christians are smarter than others. Some have different gifts, talents, abilities which are not easily understood by their friends. So it is that the Scripture says, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit" (I Cor. 12:4). Now, despite those diversities, there is to be unity in the Body of Christ, "For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body. whether we be Jews or Greeks, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many" (I Cor. 12:12-14). The fact is that there are so many differences between Christians so that, if properly exploited, the Church could become a positive hotbed of Christian charity.

Q. I've heard it said that The Beatitudes are the way of salvation. Is this true?

A. The Beatitudes are the beautiful words with which the Lord Jesus opened His Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:3-12). They have been called by some "the Constitution of the Kingdom of God" which is not an improper designation. They do not tell us, however, about the redemption of Christ purchased for us on Calvary's cross. They do not present the way of salvation, but if

believed, should cause us to quickly runto a place called Calvary, where the righteousness which The Beatitudes demand, was fulfilled on our behalf by the finished work of the Lord Jesus.

Q. How can I become a better Christian?

A. The answer to that question is easy and obvious. It is, "Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

WORTH QUOTING

"Decision and determination are the engineer and fireman of our train to opportunity and success."

-- Bert Lawlor

"The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart." -- Mencius

"Make money your god, and it will plague you like the devil." --Henry Fielding

"Certain thoughts are prayers. There are certain moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees." -- Victor Hugo

But especially, "Unto Him that loved us,

and washed us from our sins in His own blood, And has made us kings and priests unto God and His father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (Rev. 1:5,6).

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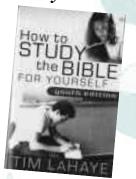
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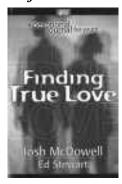
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SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

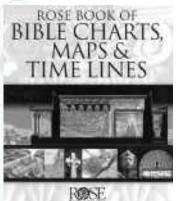
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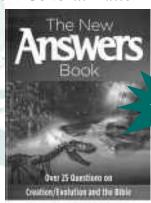
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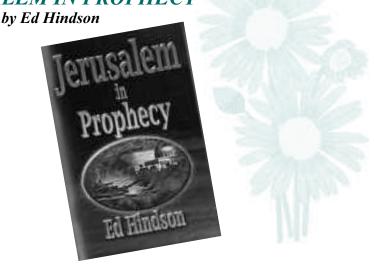
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