

# What Believing in Jesus Christ Is Not

## Believing in Jesus Christ is not ...

- 1. It's not about studying and knowing the Bible from cover to cover (John 10:10; Mark 10:45).**
  - Jesus Christ didn't come to promote Bible study but to provide salvation — the forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life — to all who believe in Him.
- 2. It's not about merely believing in the historical facts about Jesus Christ (Acts 26:27-28; James 2:19).**
  - While believing in the historical facts about Jesus Christ is essential to a person's faith in Christ, merely accepting these facts doesn't necessarily mean that he is truly believing in Christ.
- 3. It's not about respecting Jesus Christ as a good person, good teacher, or good prophet (John 10:30).**
  - Jesus Christ claims Himself to be the one and only God (John 10:30) and our one and only Savior. Either He is who He claims to be, or He is a liar, a false teacher and false prophet. Therefore, we either believe in Him or reject Him as who He claims to be. But, we can't simply respect Him as a good person, good teacher, or good prophet.
- 4. It's not simply about believing in the existence of God (James 2:19; John 14:1).**
  - Believing in Jesus Christ is person-specific. Different people have different ideas of who or what "god" is. However, the Christian faith believes in Jesus Christ as the one and only Creator-God.
- 5. It's not about believing in Christ for the time being, such as on a trial base (Matthew 13:20-21).**

- 6. It's not about believing in miracles (James 2:19; John 11:45-53).**
  - Miracles don't save people from sin nor God's final judgement. Miracles don't change lives. Many who wanted to kill Him saw His miracles, even His raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:45-53)!
- 7. It's not about learning good behaviors and becoming a morally good person (Romans 3:10-18).**
  - By our sinful human nature, no one would or could live a life of obedience to God. We first need God to give us a new life (i.e. eternal life) through Jesus Christ's salvation, then to transform our way of living from turning away from God to walking with God.
- 8. It's not about finding peace and comfort in this world (Matthew 5:10-11).**
  - Jesus Christ said that His follower should deny himself, take up his cross and follow Him (Mark 8:34). Though it's natural for people to seek peace and comfort, yet this is not the purpose or goal for believing in Jesus Christ (see also John 16:33). Still, God will empower Christians to live for Him during life's difficulties.
- 9. It's not about going to church with perfect attendance (1Corinthians 1:9).**
  - Going to church is not a requirement for believing in Christ. Christians go to church because they know that God wants His children to worship Him together as a family. They also enjoy their fellowship with other Christians at church. You may believe in Christ wherever you are right now.
- 10. It's not about family tradition or heritage (John 21:21-22).**
  - Believing in Jesus Christ is a personal decision. Each person must choose for himself or herself to believe in Christ. No one was born a Christian, not even from Christian parents.
  - Christian parents cannot transfer their faith to their children automatically. All they can do is to help their children understand the truth of Christ's salvation, then invite them to make their own decision to believe in Christ. Parents should never manipulate their children's decisions. Manipulation is something like saying to their child, "If you believe in Jesus now, it will make daddy and mommy very happy," or "If you ..., mommy will love you very much," or "..., grandpa will buy you this toy," etc.