



Believe and Ask for It

The story goes that a person had an old lamp with a wobbly switch – he had picked

up at a garage sale. Unfortunately, it had a habit of turning on and off without any reason. One moment the room would be lit – next moment it would turn off. He chose not to replace it because it did work on and off, though at times when he was reading, it would turn off and he would be left in the dark. Just when he got up to look at it – it lit up again.

What has this story got to do with our search for God?

Sometimes God seems so near, but not always. Other times He seems to have gone elsewhere. It's hard on the heart and soul, however GOD never really vanishes.

Faith or belief can only be rewarded if it's something we've chosen. Faith cannot be rewarded if it simply falls on us from above. Belief is something we must, set ourselves to and practice. Our faith in God is our most precious possession and God is committed to deepening and strengthening it.

Read: Hebrews 11:1-12 (Faith's Hall of Fame)

What speaks to you from these 12 verses about belief and faith?

Why is it that many of us don't enjoy the experience of Jesus and His resources on a more consistent basis? Maybe it is because we have a wobbly switch inside and the switch is belief. We often become so deeply entangled in our personal experiences that we think belief must be an experience, something we mostly feel. It is not – it is first and foremost an act of the will. A choice.

Read: Hebrews 11:13-31

These mighty Jewish heroes did not receive all that God had promised because they died before Christ came. But today, many Christians become frustrated and defeated because their needs, wants, expectations and demands are not immediately met when they accept Christ as Saviour.

The Bible gives us a clear choice between two life directions. Life often forks off into two directions – you must take the higher road, though it looks more difficult and treacherous. The devil blows ice on the narrow passages but despite its dangers, God has a lifeline around you. God surrounds us. He is by our side right this very moment. When we get stuck into a world of “on and off” we sow seeds of doubt in our hearts and question God.

We are seeking a greater measure of God in us and so we must remind ourselves that Jesus is already here – INSIDE us. Colossians 1:27 – this is the secret – Christ lives in you. We are not asking a distant and remote Jesus to stop what He's doing and meet our request. He's already here; the resources we seek are already implanted within us. Don't keep checking your experience to verify whether God is co-operating.

When we choose not to make a decision because we think that belief and faith depend on our feelings, we are like the person who feels the need to keep checking if their heart is beating – and very soon they become paranoid as they think they feel their heart skipping a beat or murmuring or even stopping altogether.

We need to transfer the faculty of belief from our feelings to our will. We choose to believe. This takes some getting used to but we need to employ some benevolent detachment from our own emotional roller coaster. Make the choice to believe despite whatever our current feelings may be.

Read: 1 Peter 1:6-8

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith-of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

Luke 11:9-10

