Whoever Believes

The Gift of Salvation is given to those who "believe" - John 3:16-18 - 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever **believes IN HIM** shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 **Whoever believes IN HIM** is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe** stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

***Believes** - pisteuo (pist-yoo'-o);to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), to entrust

Belief is commanded by God - 1 John 3:21-24 - 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And **this is his command**: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

True believers will listen and follow Christ, not just hear Christ - John 10:25-30 - 25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, 26 but you do not believe **because you are not my sheep**. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

Effective ministering to guide those to believe will be fully based on Christ Crucified - 1 Cor 1:20-25 - 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to **SAVE THOSE WHO BELIEVE**. 22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but ***we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,*** 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

We CAN'T acquire eternal life by doing it on our own, but by believing and receiving the gift - Gal 3:1-9 - You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. 2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or ***by believing*** what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, ***are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?*** 4 Have you suffered so much for nothing — if it really was for nothing? 5 Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or **because you believe** what you heard? 6 Consider Abraham: "**He believed God**, and it was credited to him as righteousness." 7 Understand, then, that those **who believe** are children of Abraham. 8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." 9 So those **who have faith** are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Evidence of true belief will be us following God's commands - 1 John 5:1-5 **- *Everyone who believes*** that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 **This is how we know that we love the children of God**: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 **This is love for God**: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 **Who is it that overcomes the world**? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

True belief will be displayed not just spoken - James 2:14-26 - 14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! **Even the demons believe that — and shudder**. 20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that ***a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone***. 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

True belief is a continual embrace to God's Word - 1 Cor 15:1-2 - Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, IF YOU HOLD FIRMLY TO THE WORD I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.