

## Does Belief (Faith) Automatically Equate to Faithfulness?

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No, it does not. John 12:42: "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many BELIEVED on him; but because of the Pharisees they DID NOT CONFESS HIM, lest they should be put out of the synagogue..."

These chief rulers believed in Christ to the extent that they understood Him to be the Messiah, but they caved in to peer pressure and would not confess Him. Just because someone believes in Jesus does not mean that he is automatically faithful to Him.

Some people even confess Christ, but then do not obey the things that He commanded. "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Are such individuals saved? "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Mat. 7:21). "But be ye DOERS of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22). Read the entirety of the New Testament, and you will see that belief (faith) is extremely important, but not just mere understanding or acknowledgement of Christ as Lord. Rather, the kind of faith that saves is OBEDIENT faith. James 2:15-26: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

With love, Chase