

## What Belief (or Faith) Is NOT

1. **BELIEF IS NOT A \_\_\_\_\_ ITSELF:** "Faith" is well-*used* but equally well-*abused* because people misunderstand what "faith" means. *Belief (or "faith") is not a power itself; only but trust in God's power.*

Belief cannot stand alone. Belief requires something to believe in – an object: a claim, a promise, or a person. Belief as seen in the Bible believes in God's promises and His ability to keep those promises.

*Believing in something God has not promised is VAIN and worthless. Belief does not save—God's work does. Belief is not work but the acceptance of God's claims concerning Jesus and His work.*

2. **BELIEF IS NOT SOMETHING \_\_\_\_\_ AFFIRMING THE TRUTH:** Many try to divide conversion into 3 steps to cover the intellect, emotions, and will. They say that the intellect understands the claims of God, the emotions believe the claims, and somehow the will "appropriates" that belief. It is stated that without this "appropriation" salvation is impossible.

**QUANTITATIVE (A Required Amount of Faith)**



There is no Biblical basis for such a three-fold division, and even simple logic would discount such arguments.

**Major Problem with this View:** One can assent to or affirm the truth (faith), but yet not believe (hence the need for the term "saving faith").

**Common Questions that Promote This View:** Did you really mean it (or mean what you said)? Do you remember your conversion? This view focuses on the appropriation, the point of conversion, and the person (how you felt or what you meant).

**Common Illustrations that Promote This View:**

Illustrations used for this argument include believing the "elevator" and the "chair" can lift or hold but being unwilling to ride or sit.

- *The Chair:* The chair will hold you, & you agree that it can, but until you sit in the chair (appropriate the truth), you are not "exercising" faith.
- *The Elevator* – you hear that the elevator will take you up, and believe that it can, but you have to get on the elevator to appropriate it.

These are good examples of trying to make teaching back up an illustration rather than using an illustration to explain teaching.

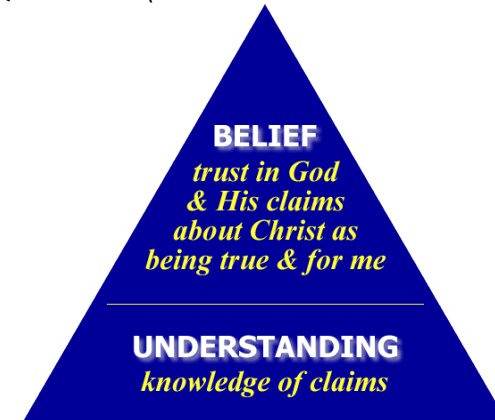
### Analytical Questions:

*How much faith? How do you know that you have enough? How is it measured to make sure? How do you appropriate the truth? Bible evidence? Or just trying to fit men's ideas into the Bible (like some to with evolution)?*

3. **BELIEF IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS \_\_\_\_\_:** The issue is whether or not you believe God's promise (*qualitative*) – yes or no, I do or I don't, *light on or off* – rather than if you have enough belief for it to be counted (*quantitative*). It is one's response to the claims that is the issue.

**Luke 17:3-6** "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." <sup>5</sup> And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." <sup>6</sup> So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

**QUALITATIVE (On or Off – Either One Believes or Not)**



Biblically, there is no middle ground. Either one believes God's claims as true or does not believe God's claims are true. Either you take what God says as true or reject it as untrue. If one believes God's claims, that person is saved. Support: John 3:18,36; Acts 16:30-31; Rom 4:20-21

**1 John 5:1** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

Illustration: *Light Switch* – if the light is on (if belief exists now, it obviously began sometime).