

Arlington Church of Christ

**What it means to Believe in
Jesus**

Following the Scriptural Trail

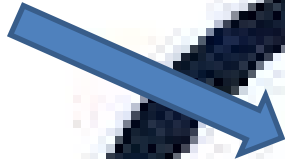


John 3:16-17

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.

While many people quote this verse – few understand what the Bible means by ‘BELIEVE’.
Most take it to be mental assent to certain facts, but the Bible use of ‘believe’ involves acting on what we claim to believe. If we are not willing to act on it, then we really don’t believe !

truth claim



KNOW

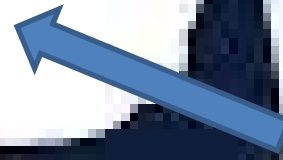


truth claim

truth claim

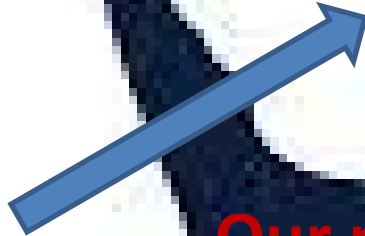


Believe



truth claim

truth claim

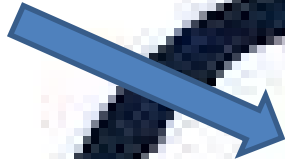


Our mind absorbs lots of things, but we do not believe all of them. They are not all 'real' to us.



truth claim

truth claim



KNOW

truth claim

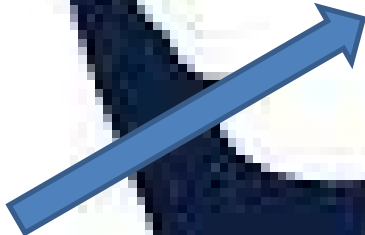
truth claim



Believe

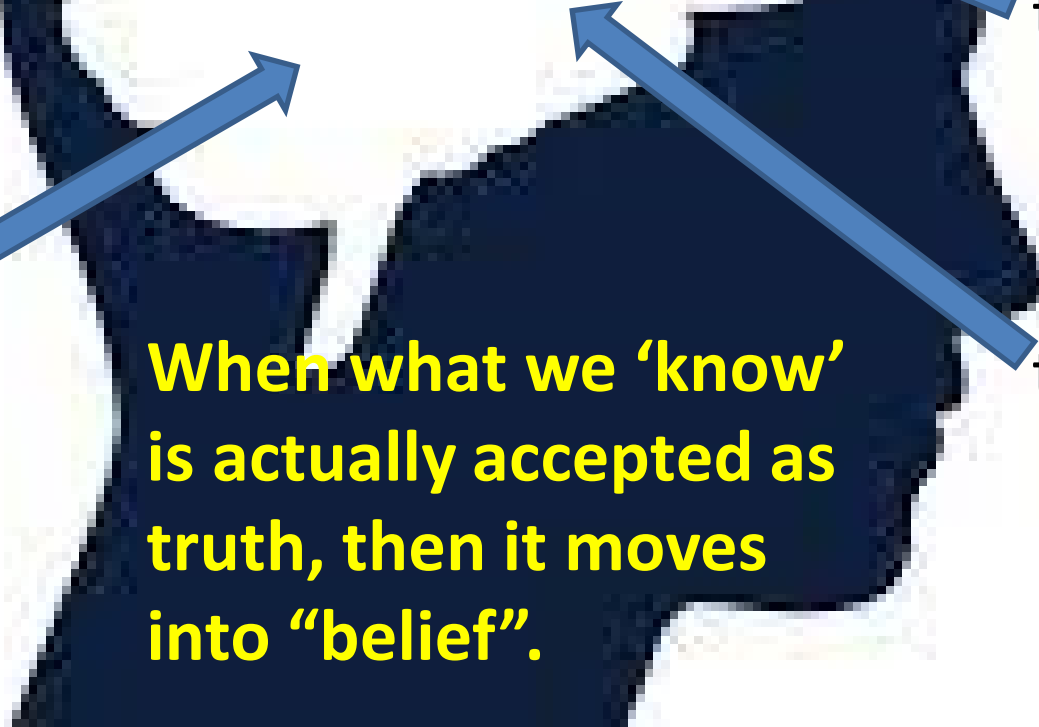
truth claim

truth claim



truth claim

**When what we 'know'
is actually accepted as
truth, then it moves
into "belief".**



truth claim

KNOW

truth claim

truth claim

Believe

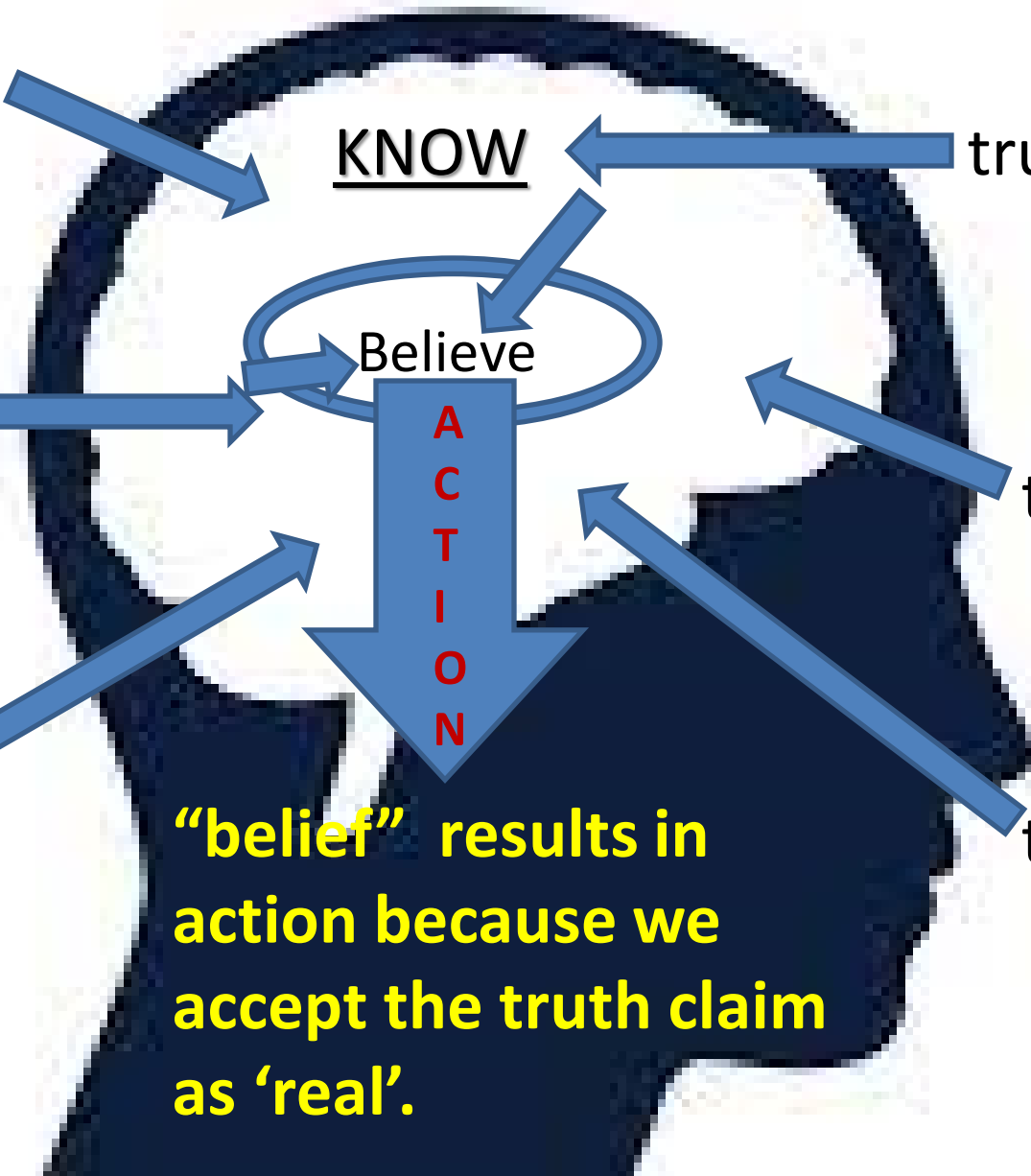
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truth claim

**“belief” results in
action because we
accept the truth claim
as ‘real’.**



Numbers 21:8-9

The LORD said to Moses,
“Make a snake and put it
up on a pole; anyone who
is bitten can look at it and
live.”⁹ So Moses made a
bronze snake and put it
up on a pole. **Then when
anyone was bitten by a
snake and looked at the
bronze snake, they lived.**

They had to go to it and
look at it, not just sit in
their tents and ‘believe’ –
required action !



Numbers 21:8-9

The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

John 3:14-15

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who **believes may have eternal life in him.”**

In the same way - ‘belief in Jesus’ requires action !

John 3:18-21

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, **but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.** ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ **Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.** ²¹ **But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light,** so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Their deeds condemned them because they refused to take the action necessary to 'believe' .

James 2:14-17, 24, 26

What good is it, my brothers, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ **In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**

²⁴ You see that **a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.**

²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without deeds is dead.**

Genesis 22: 9-12

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ¹² **“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”**



Hebrews 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.



Joshua 2:18-19

unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. ¹⁹ **If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible.** As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them.

Notice what she had to 'do'
In order to be saved -



Joshua 2:18-19

unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. ¹⁹ If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them.



Hebrews 11:31

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, (believed that God was with the Israelites) was not killed with those who were disobedient

Acts 2:36-41

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” (They believed it was true – but more was needed)

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt

generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 16:14-15

One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵ **When she and the members of her household were baptized**, she invited us to her home. **"If you consider me a believer in the Lord,"** she said, **"come and stay at my house."** And she persuaded us.



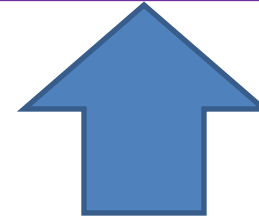
Acts 16:29-34

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ **At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized.** ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; **he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.**

Hebrews 5:8-9

Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him



Hebrews 5:8-9

Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

1 John 2:3-6

³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴ Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵ **But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.**

"Claiming to be a Christian" does not mean anything unless we do what He says !

John 14:23-24

Jesus replied, **“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.** My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

Our love for God is not shown by what we SAY we ‘believe’ , but by how we live our lives – whether in obedience to His word or not. Whether our actions show that we ‘believe’ as a accepted fact that what he said is true – therefore we act on it.

Luke 6:46

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

What we 'know' must be coupled with what we do in obedience if it is to 'save' us.