

## They Don't Really Believe

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

It is surprising how many people that I've talked to over the years who said that they believed in God, but they didn't go to church. A lot of them said that they should be coming to church and thought about it, but they never did come. Why? I believe the answer is that they didn't really believe in the Lord.

In **Luke 6:46** Jesus asked a very important question, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" I've wondered how anybody could answer that question who would not obey the Lord. Either the person would have to say that he didn't believe in him, or that he didn't want to do the Lord's commands. For a person to believe in Jesus and to knowingly disobey his words would be about as foolish as a man could be.

If a person tells me that he truly believes in Jesus, but he doesn't serve the Lord, worship, or do anything to support the Lord's work, my question would be, "Why not?" If you tell me that you know the Lord is real and that he is coming back, then how could you live a life that denies him? Talk is cheap and many people talk big but do little. You don't show love, or faith, for God if your life is lived for the flesh. That's true no matter

what you may say. 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. (**James 2:18**)

God's word tells us in **Hebrews 10:25**, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Some people say that doesn't mean that they have to go to church. Really? "Have to?" I can promise you one thing, when the Lord takes his church out of this wicked world, such people will want to go with the church then. Just like they don't care about walking with God now, here in this life, but they will certainly want to walk with him in heaven. Why can't they see the need to walk with him and to keep his commandments now? It is simple they don't believe in him or in what he says. I have had a few tell me that they want to believe, but they just can't.

Lack of faith is not just about attending church. There are also those who go to church, but don't seem to believe all that the Lord says about living the Christian life. There is a difference between going to church and living for the Lord. Remember the Pharisees and some of the other Jews who offered the sacrifices according to the law, but were not right with God?

I have heard of strong disputes in churches where someone got angry because he didn't get his way on some issue. Some have almost got physical in their anger. Congregations split as

people take sides, usually with at least one side wanting to be in control of the congregation. When people truly believe in God and that it is his church then all will want to be in submission to him. To believe in him is to practice forgiveness, love, mercy, and all of his commandments.

The person who lives for the Lord, does just that, he lives each day for the Lord. He talks to God in prayer each and every day. Not just to ask for something, but to thank him for the blessings that he gives. That person will go to church, not because he has to, but because he loves to go to the Lord's house. There he is in fellowship with God and with other believers. He doesn't just go to get help and support for himself, but to encourage and to help others as well.

Why does such a person live as he does? There is one simple reason - he believes what God has said.

There seem to be many who believe in God, or at least they say that they do, but don't believe God. If a person believes God and what he says, don't you think he would do what the Lord said? **Psalms 14:1** says, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." Isn't he also a fool who would say, "No, God I won't obey your commands?" Why would they act in such a way? They don't truly believe in God, therefore they have no fear of judgment, or facing the Lord.

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...THE DAUGHTERS DIDN'T QUITE RELISH HAVING FATHER'S WORLDLY GOODS DIVIDED AMONGST DISTANT MALE RELATIVES, SO THESE FIVE FEISTY FEMALES WENT BEFORE MOSES HIMSELF, BOLDLY ARGUING THAT THEY SHOULD INHERIT! MOSES, AS USUAL, TOOK IT UP WITH THE LORD (NUMBERS 27:1-11) "AND THE LORD SPAKE UNTO MOSES SAYING, 'THE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD SPEAK RIGHT...THOU SHALT CAUSE THE INHERITANCE OF THEIR FATHER TO PASS UNTO THEM.'"

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