



WEEK - 1: DON'T STOP BELIEVIN' ... WHAT'S BELIEF?

The ability to believe is the most powerful force at humanities disposal. It is an ability. Everything that has been done, good or bad, was done because someone believed it could be or should be done. Every problem that has been solved was solved because someone believed it could be or should be solved. Also we constantly look for evidence to support what we believe is true.

Something happens - positive or negative no matter which way you point your ability to believe.
So - where are you pointing your faith?

THINK ABOUT THESE ...

1. Do you think Faith is an "ability"? Why or why not?
 2. Think of a belief you hold—*religious, political, economic*—that has a major influence on the way you live your life. In what ways do you look for evidence to support that belief? In what ways do you filter out evidence that contradicts that belief?
 3. The gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the New Testament - accounts record that when Jesus died, His disciples' faith died. But when they finally came out of hiding, their messages wasn't, "Believe what Jesus taught." Instead it was, "*You killed him. God raised him. We've seen him.*" In what ways do the disciples' behaviour and message challenge your assumptions about Christianity?
 4. Read **Acts 17:31**. Do you agree that the "proof" of Jesus' resurrection is a compelling basis for personal faith? Why or why not??
 5. When you think about Jesus, do you tend to focus on his teachings or his death and resurrection?
- How does that focus influence the way you answer the question, "*Who is Jesus?*"



THINKING REVOLUTIONARY ...

Christians believe that when you choose to place your faith in Christ's death, that single act of faith leads to forgiveness of sin.

A single event—the resurrection—changed how those closest to Jesus answered the question of His identity. They went from unbelief to belief—the moment they saw him risen.

READ AND THINK ABOUT THESE WORDS:

“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2 verses 22-24, 32,33, 38,39