

# What Can I Gain from Believing in Christ?

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Because our website is all about answering the question “Why Believe in Christ?”, we thought it best to address this important question right off the bat. We hope that as you continue reading through our other website documents, you’ll find our reasoning for believing in Christ even more compelling.

Imagine a life where your shoulders never have to bear a burden that leaves you drained or drags you down. A life where you can choose, every day, to handle only those things you know you can handle comfortably. No, we are not talking about a life where you get to shirk your responsibilities, but rather a life where you get to share the pressure of those responsibilities, or even hand them over to someone else far more capable than you.

Imagine a life where you want to smile at everyone you meet. A life where even sorrow is replaced with joy. A life where peace is ever present and not always just around the corner. Imagine a life where knowing how it ends, where it ends, and even when it ends, doesn’t matter anymore; a life where you are always at peace with the outcome, whatever it might be. Imagine a life where you are never alone!

These are among the gifts you will gain should you elect to believe in Christ.

How do we know this? Because Jesus Christ made us a promise, in writing, and He made it more than once. His gifts are guaranteed to us if we but choose to believe in Him. Let us explain.

God’s New Covenant with humanity, communicated through His Son Jesus Christ as two new commandments in the New Testament, asks the following from us:

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength; and
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

When you elect to follow Jesus’ first commandment, you are, in essence, saying “Lord, I don’t want to be alone anymore, and I need Your help. I am putting my love, and my faith, and my trust in You. And with that, I know You will always have my back. I acknowledge that with You in my life, it is Your will, not mine, that will be done.” When you truly accept God’s strength, you will no longer have to worry that your destiny is in your own hands. And the irony here is that trusting God will set you free, ease your burden of worry, and bring you peace.

When you elect to follow Jesus’ second commandment--electing to love all people, even your enemies-- you can hopefully begin to imagine the joy such an attitude will bring. Suddenly, it is no longer relevant how others choose to relate to you because the joy of loving everyone is your joy, and your choice, not theirs.

So, how does all this work? Well, believe it or not, it really is just common sense. Think about it for a moment. When you were a young child, before things turned ugly (and they always do when we “grow up”), who did you trust to “take care of everything” so you could just “play”? Most often, it was your mother and father. In your early life, worry was rarely an issue. For most of us, we trusted someone else to handle the “big” things. And then things got ugly. Why? Because we grew up and we started to take on responsibilities. And as time marched on those responsibilities grew, as did their weight on our shoulders. We were suddenly in charge; and oh, how we often wished we could just turn back time and go back to our youth when someone else was in charge. Right?

Well, following Jesus’ first commandment gives you that opportunity. When you put your full and complete trust in God, that wonderful, unimaginable power, your responsibilities do not disappear, you just no longer feel their burden because you have turned their outcome over to God. In essence, you stop worrying about how **you** think things should turn out because you’ve turned that responsibility over to God. Shedding how you think things should turn out will change your whole world. This is a fascinating subject, and we deal with it in greater depth in our PDF [“Who Do You Think Is in Control?”](#). Here’s a hint: it isn’t you.

When you follow Jesus’ second commandment, love becomes the essence of your life. And when you love someone, you almost always find joy in their presence. Our problem is we think love is by accident and not by choice. Common sense would tell us that if we were to love everyone, our joy would expand dramatically.

Impossible, you say. Well, if that's your choice, then you are right. But remember, it isn't because loving everyone is impossible; it is because **you** chose to believe it is impossible. By your belief, you dictate the outcome. Loving everyone is up to you, and no one else.

God knows it won't be easy. Therefore, He gives us a Helper – His Holy Spirit. We discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in more detail in the PDFs *“Who Are the Important Characters?”* and *“What Is Fruit of the Holy Spirit?”*, but what Jesus told His disciples in John 14:12-18, and what He is really saying to all of us who choose to follow Him, says it best:

***“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He [the Holy Spirit] may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you [because you now believe in Me]. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”***

In this passage of Scripture, we find the wonderful promise that is made to every genuine believer in Christ. We will never be left spiritually as orphans.

True believers are given another, even more important promise. Those who genuinely believe in Jesus are guaranteed God's gift of eternal life. By trusting in Christ as our sole Lord and Savior, believing that He died to pay the penalty for our sins and was raised from the dead on the third day [this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ], we gain, by God's grace, the ultimate free gift – a life everlasting. Yes, we will most likely die in the flesh, just as Christ did; but, like Christ, we too will be resurrected and will be given an imperishable body so we can live in God's kingdom, in lasting fellowship with all other true believers, forever and ever. Here are just a few of the Bible's statements supporting this critical reason for believing in Jesus:

***“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9***

***“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?’” John 11:25-26***

***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life’.” John 3:16***

***“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; 1 Corinthians 15:42***

***“Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.” 1 Corinthians 15:50-53***

When you firmly, honestly and sincerely believe in Christ (and His Gospel) with an abiding and repentant faith, your salvation is guaranteed, and you will receive, into your heart, the Holy Spirit – the holy presence of God. And in receiving the Holy Spirit, you will begin to experience the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, and it will be life altering.

In Ephesians 1:13-14, the Apostle Paul explains that the Holy Spirit is a deposit given to true believers in Christ that guarantees our relationship with Christ:

***“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.”***

And in Galatians 5:22-23, the Apostle Paul explains exactly what the Fruit of the Holy Spirit is:

***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”***

## Summary

So, if you are in a period of total stress with everything around you breaking down, have nowhere to turn to and everything looks hopeless, who do you want standing next to you:

- A. The most powerful force in the universe who can create any miracle at will, or
- B. Your best friend who can only hug you and offer sympathy, or
- C. A very powerful force whose only tools are deceit, lying and false promises?

Yes, the right answer is A.

We suggest that you simply ask yourself, "Would my life be better if (a) I didn't have to worry anymore and (b) I had more love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in my life? Common sense would answer, "How could it not"?"

You gain all of this as you begin to genuinely believe in Jesus Christ.