

Believe John 10:1-12; Genesis 12:1-4

God wants to load on us His benefits. His word is life, when was the last time you drank from His water, ate of His bread, or breathed in His breath? Many of us are on Facebook but do we have our face in the Book? The big question these days is, "Do you believe?" Much of what happens with the Olympics in Feb. will be forgotten in the years to come but what you believe will carry you into an eternity with or without Christ. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, do you believe in a risen Saviour? As Christians we sell "fire insurance" we tell people that if they say the sinner's prayer then heaven is their home they won't go to hell. The sinner's prayer is not in the Bible; Jesus simply called people to follow Him. They did or they didn't, the decision was theirs and He didn't try to talk them into it. Jesus is the real thing and He is on the move. If we want what He offers we will follow. We ask people to believe and belong and then behave like they belong because they believe. In almost every other area in life we sign up first (join), then behave (gain knowledge and instruction) and then believe. If a fireman did not show up for training or upgrading he wouldn't be a part of the force very long; a hockey player who consistently didn't show up for practices or games would quickly cease to be a member of the team. Each would be questioned on their lack of attendance. Yet we join the church without any expectations of accountability, in fact, when our conduct is questioned we want to know what right they have to ask? We have made the church footloose and fancy-free while other groups (ie. firefighters and hockey players) have requirements expected of them. They go to training and practice in order to become better team players. What about our level of commitment, our level of behaviour, our level of faith? We say we have the best thing going (a relationship with Jesus) so why do we need to talk people into joining our church? They should be able to see the evidence and desire what we have for themselves. If we needed to lose weight we would go to someone who has already done it and get advice and guidance from them as to how they did it, what worked for them. Why is it as Christians we try to go it alone when we are struggling? Marriages falling apart, financial troubles, parenting problems often aren't exposed until it's too late. We need to spend time together, the older with the younger. When was the last time you purposely, strategically spent time with someone of another generation? **Isaiah 50:4** when do you do our devotions? As one able to teach, God has a word for you in the morning before you meet the day, not at the end when stuff has already happened. We all want fresh revelation from God but what have we done with what He has already given us? Have we used it or sat on it? Wisdom and revelation, old and new wineskins; to get the new we might have to give up the old. The message is sacred the method is not. Those with wisdom need to pass it on to the next generation but it may mean changing your deliverance. We need to stay connected and watch the enjoyment of new believers as they experience God incidences for the first time rather than saying, "I've been there... I've done that... so I will stay home." **Eph. 1:15-17** what our church needs is for us to experience a spirit of wisdom and revelation. Because we are experienced and seasoned we cease looking for a new revelation. We've figured it all out. Why did you come to church, just to put in time or are you looking for some revelation? We need to count the cost, we're either in or we're not. When someone says, "I do" at the altar, they are saying, "I belong to my spouse and I'm going to behave like I belong to them." The more they behave that way it should increase their faith in their marriage. Faith in Jesus should get stronger because we have made our decision; we belong to Him, we belong to the Kingdom of God! Why do we come to church? Because we are believers, we belong to the church of Jesus Christ. So we behave like we belong and as a result our faith in Him gets stronger, our trust in Him gets stronger. We still have hard times but we are a family and we don't have to go it alone, unless we choose to. As the church grows we can't expect the pastor to visit everyone all the time, but we can visit one another. That's the beauty of CARE Groups and that's why we need to be connected to one. Wisdom and revelation need to be passed on to each other. Do you belong to Living Way? A hockey player doesn't play for multiple teams at one time, they choose one and only one. So it is with a church body. If you belong then behave like it and your faith will be enriched, and the church will be enriched. If we all behaved like we belong to the Royal household every area of our lives will be enhanced. If you want to flourish in God then look for fresh revelation. If you're a young people, look for wisdom, it's in the seasoned saint. We need to engage. We are not our own, we have been bought with a price and as the captain of our ship Jesus is telling us to engage; sign up. We don't have it all, we need each other. Abram engaged because he belonged to God. He behaved like he belonged by obeying the voice of the Lord. Are we the Lord's sheep? Do we hear His voice? Do we follow Him? His love is guarantee enough that He will never fail us.