

**“BELIEVING IS SEEING”**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 2:13**

**INTRO:** In our last study from 1 Thessalonians, we focused on CHAPTER 2 and VERSE 13 that **speaks of the effectual working of the WORD OF GOD upon the lives of those who BELIEVE.** You may recall that in that study we learned three things:

- 1) THE SCRIPTURE IS THE WORD OF GOD, NOT THE WORD OF MEN
- 2) THE SCRIPTURE IS THE TRUTH OF GOD, AND IS ABSOLUTE TRUTH
- 3) THE SCRIPTURE IS THE OPERATION OF GOD, ACTIVELY ENERGIZING BELIEVERS

Today we are going to **return to 1 Thessalonians 2:13 so as to focus on ONE SMALL WORD THAT BRINGS ONE HUGE EFFECT upon those who practice it.** It is the very last word of the verse...” **BELIEVE.**” The title of the message today is **“BELIEVING IS SEEING.”** The point of the message is **BELIEF IN THE RIGHT THING ALWAYS RESULTS IN SEEING THE DIVINE THING.** In other words, **WHEN WE TRULY BELIEVE PROPERLY, WE WILL TRULY SEE THE EFFECTUAL WORKING OF GOD IN OUR LIVES.**

**NOTE:** “BELIEVE” in the verse is “PISTEUO” in the Greek which means **“TO COMMIT OR TO HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN.”**

**A REMINDER:** **The Bible DOES NOT JUST CONTAIN the Word of God...The Bible IS the Word of God.** (Isaiah 55:11; Jeremiah 15:16; John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:23-25)

**IF GOD’S WORD IS GOING TO WORK IN OUR LIVES WE MUST BELIEVE!**

***I. WE MUST BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF GOD – HEBREWS 11:6***

**NOTE:** **THE BELIEF, OR CONFIDENCE IN THE EXISTENCE OF GOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL RIGHT BELIEF!**

- A. The Matter of Intellectual Belief – **The belief that “GOD IS.”**
  1. As Seen in Creation – The Universe
  2. As Seen in Revelation – The Bible
  3. As Seen in Illumination – The Holy Spirit
  4. As Seen in Transformation – The Changed Life
- B. The Matter of Emotional Belief – **The Belief that “GOD IS A REWARDER.”**  
**-Recognizing that God has the will, desire, and ability to meet our needs.**
  1. Regarding Salvation
  2. Regarding all Provision
- C. The Matter of Willful Belief – **The Belief that we can “WILLINGLY SEEK HIM.”**
  1. Willingly Trusting Christ as Savior through Faith
  2. Willingly Trusting God for Provision through Faith

***II. WE MUST BELIEVE IN THE EFFICACY OF CHRIST – 1 TIMOTHY 1:15***

**DEFINITION:** “EFFICACY” means “THE POWER TO PRODUCE.”

**NOTE:** **THE BELIEF, OR CONFIDENCE THAT THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST IS ALL THE SUFFICIENT POWER NEEDED TO PRODUCE AND PROVIDE ETERNAL SALVATION FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE.**

1. As Seen in John 14:6
2. As Seen in Hebrews 10:11-15

***III. WE MUST BELIEVE IN THE EFFECT OF THE SCRIPTURE – 2 TIMOTHY 3:16,17***

**NOTE:** **THE BELIEF, OR CONFIDENCE THAT THE SCRIPTURE IS THE FOUNDATION OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY WILL CHANGE THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO OBEY IT.**

**FACT:** **THE BIBLE IS, IN TRUTH, THE WORD OF GOD AND IS THE SUPREME AND FINAL AUTHORITY BY WHICH ALL HUMAN CONDUCT, CREEDS AND OPINIONS SHALL BE TRIED.**

- A. The Scripture Reveals God to those who Believe it – Genesis 1:1
- B. The Scripture Reveals Christ to those who Believe it – John 1:1-5,14

- C. The Scripture Saves those who Believe it – 1 Peter 1:23
- D. The Scripture Equips those who Believe it – 2 Timothy 3:16,17
- E. The Scripture Matures those who Believe it – 1 Peter 2:2

#### APPLICATION AND LESSONS

- 1) Believing the Scripture will lead us to recognize the existence of God and the efficacy of Christ.
- 2) Believing the Scripture will build our faith that will enable us to see the greater working of God in our lives.
- 3) Believing the Scripture involves:
  - Reading it
  - Studying it
  - Obeying it
  - Meditating upon it
  - Living it