

Thank you!
Dion Hawkins
Today's speaker

If You Have a Bible

If you have a Bible - **READ IT.**
If you read the Bible - **BELIEVE IT.**
If you believe the Bible - **LIVE IT.**

Gospel Meeting...Starts next Sunday!!!
- Randall Jarrell from El Centro -

October Birthdays
8 Esmeralda McCollum 28 Allan Brown

Regular Meeting Times
Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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The Necessity of Believing in Jesus

By Jeff Arnette

One of the key teachings of the Bible is that faith is essential to pleasing God. In Hebrews 11:6, we read: *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”* This verse shows us two important aspects of faith: belief and action.

Belief means trusting that God is who he says he is and that he will do what he promises. It is not enough to have a vague or general idea of God; we need to know him personally and intimately through his word and his Spirit. We need to believe that he is the creator, the sustainer, the redeemer, and the judge of all things. We need to believe that he loves us, cares for us, and has a plan for us. As Romans 10:9 says: *“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

Action means living in obedience and submission to God's will and commands. It is not enough to have a mental assent to God's existence; we need to demonstrate our faith by our deeds. We need to seek him earnestly, meaning with sincerity, diligence, and perseverance. We need to follow his guidance, obey his instructions, and fulfill his purposes. We need to worship him, serve him, and honor him. As James 2:17 says: *“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”*

Faith is essential to pleasing God because it shows that we love him, trust him, and depend on him. Faith is the foundation of our relationship with God and the source of our spiritual growth and fruitfulness. Faith is not something we have once and for all; it is something we need to cultivate and nurture every day. Faith is the

key to unlocking God's blessings and promises in our lives. As Hebrews 11:1 says: "*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*"

There Was No Plan B

By Joe Slater

We cannot fully comprehend the horror Jesus faced that night in Gethsemane. A merciless scourging awaited Him, followed by nails being driven through His hands and feet. For six endless hours searing pain would wrack His battered body as He struggled for every breath.

But that scarcely begins to describe our Savior's woe. Who can fathom the agony of taking the whole world's sins and bearing them in His body on the tree (1 Peter 2:24)? No wonder He cried out, "*O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me*" (Matthew 26:39a). Yet even as He pleaded, He knew there was no Plan B. Unless He stayed the course all the way to the cross, no sinner could be saved. Therefore, He continued, "*nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will*" (26:39b).

Jesus had no Plan B when He sent His apostles to preach His gospel to the world. Not that long ago they had scattered like a covey of quail when Judas brought the Roman soldiers and temple police to arrest Him. Peter had denied three times that he even knew Jesus, much less that he was His disciple. Would you entrust those men with the most powerful and desperately needed message the world will ever know? Jesus did! And ten days after He commissioned them, they demonstrated that His confidence in them was fully justified. About 3000 souls believed and obeyed the glad tidings that the apostles proclaimed boldly. From that point on, the church grew by leaps and bounds.

You and I are still part of Jesus' Plan A. He is still the one and only way anyone can come to the Father (John 14:6), and His gospel is still God's power to save (Romans 1:16). He has no Plan B, so don't bother looking! Just follow Plan A, the plan "*ordained from the foundation of the world!*" (1 Peter 1:20).

Fall Gospel Meeting

(Reminder)

Being Effective Christians

Sunday, October 8th:

9:45 am "Act on God's Values, not Personal Circumstances!"

10:45 am "Act with the End Goal in Sight!"

Monday, October 9th:

7:00 pm "Act Based on 'We,' not 'Me!'"

Tuesday, October 10th:

7:00 pm "Act to Influence, not to Judge!"

Wednesday, October 11th:

7:00 pm "Act in Concert with Others!"

Trust in the Lord

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB)
