

May 10, 2015

## THROUGH BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE

John 20:26:31

Belief is very important in the Gospel of John. The end of Chapter 20 concludes with the author's admitting that there are many other stories about the life of Christ that could be told, but that he had written what he did *"so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name!"* (31) But just before these words, John quotes Jesus as having told Thomas, and, all the disciples in the house, *"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe!"* And that's us. Thomas had a close up and personal experience. We are not so fortunate. Our personal experience is rather elusive. It's not always easy to get a handle on it. But it is real, it is spiritual, and it is by faith that we experience the reality of Jesus Christ in our lives.

But believing is important. In John 3:16, we are told: *"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

In John 11:25-26, we are told: *"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."*

In John 6:35 we are told: *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never thirst!"*

So what is it to believe? To believe is not meant to be simply a matter of intellectual agreement that something is true. You can believe that 2 plus 2 is four. And you can experience it. But that belief doesn't really change your life. In Hebrews, we are told that *"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* (11:1) Believing is like gaining a sense of assurance, a sureness about the things you believe. And, believing is like gaining a conviction; where you are convinced about something even though it is unseen. We profess our beliefs. We celebrate our beliefs. And, we confirm our beliefs. But, still, what is it to believe?

The story of Blondin. Jean Francois Gravelet.

Believing is a way of investing your life. You put your life in the hands of the one in whom you believe. It is a matter of trust. We trust the grace of God at work in our lives, in our midst. We put our lives, our souls, into Christ's hands. We celebrate this by faith. We practice this by worship, by service, by trusting in the Lord, loving God with all our hearts, all our minds, all our souls, and all our strength. We put our lives into the hands of Jesus.