

BELIEVE

365 DEVOTIONS



RANDY &
ROZANNE
FRAZEE

WHAT I BELIEVE. WHO I AM BECOMING.

365-DAY DEVOTIONAL

BELIEVE

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RANDY AND
ROZANNE FRAZEE

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Believe 365-Day Devotional

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BELIEFS

God
Personal God
Salvation
The Bible
Identity in Christ

Church
Humanity
Compassion
Stewardship
Eternity

PRACTICES

Worship
Prayer
Bible Study
Single-Mindedness
Total Surrender

Biblical Community
Spiritual Gifts
Offering My Time
Giving My Resources
Sharing My Faith

VIRTUES

Love
Joy
Peace
Self-Control
Hope

Patience
Kindness/Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Humility

INTRODUCTION:
THE JOURNEY OF "BELIEVE"

"If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

"If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

MARK 9:22-24

Jesus declares with authority, "Everything is possible for one who believes." Truly believing the key ideas of the God found in the Bible is a powerful proposition, isn't it? Throughout the teaching of Jesus, and the whole Bible for that matter, we are encouraged to believe not just in our heads but also in our hearts. We are invited to believe these powerful truths not only as the right answers but also as a way of life. When we do, everything is possible.

The journey of *belief* actually begins with the confession of *unbelief*. As you turn the page and peer into the key beliefs, practices, and virtues of the Christian faith, turn to God with a willingness to be honest with him. Like the man in Mark 9, tell him where you are in the form of a prayer request: "I do believe some things, Lord, but would you help me overcome what I am struggling to believe?" If you do, he will.

Then, watch out, because everything is possible for the one who believes.

PART 1: THINK

What Do I Believe?



THE TEN KEYS OF "THINK"

God

Personal God

Salvation

The Bible

Identity in Christ

Church

Humanity

Compassion

Stewardship

Eternity

LEARNING TO THINK LIKE JESUS



Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is.

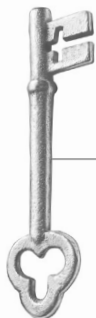
ROMANS 12:2

Can you remember the first time you donned a pair of polarized sunglasses? If you're like me, you took them off and put them back on several times because you couldn't believe the difference they made in what you saw. Cutting down on glare gives objects clarity and makes colors more vivid.

As Christians, what we believe—or the internal lens of our mind—impacts how we live and who we become. For example: If you view God as personal and involved in your daily life, you will experience more joy. If you see people as God sees them (belief in humanity), you will become gentler toward others. If you believe that everything you are and own belong to God (belief in stewardship), you will more naturally offer your time and resources to help others.

Jesus desires to give us new internal lenses by transforming our minds. He does this as we firmly establish ourselves in what we believe.

You have begun a journey of renewing your mind. As you meditate on what you believe, you will adopt a worldview that profoundly reduces glare and reveals clarity about how you should act to become more like Jesus. Soon others will notice the vivid difference. Hopefully you will too!



DAY 3

GOD

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

When you face a mirror, your reflection appears. It can be a lonely experience that can send you straight to the gym to shed extra pounds or to your makeup bag to cover blemishes. Your flaws glare at you. Stepping in front of the mirror of life, you may have a similar experience. You notice your weaknesses and think, *I can't*.

You were created in God's image to live in community—you were never meant to do life alone. God is a community of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They move and breathe together. You cannot know the love of the Father without experiencing the grace of Jesus and the fellowship of his Spirit. Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). As it is with the nature of God, so it is with the nature of humanity.

When you live in community, your strengths come together with others' and your weaknesses are shored up. That united group of people reflects God's perfect image.

Step in front of life's mirror alone, and a human reflection appears. Step in front of the mirror surrounded by your community, and God appears.

**"I BELIEVE THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY
TRUE GOD—FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT."**

PERSONAL GOD



I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

PSALM 121:1–2

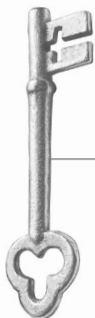
Are you in a valley right now, facing a mountain you didn't expect? Maybe that mountain seems so overwhelming you can't imagine being on top, let alone getting to the other side. Is God really with you? Does he care about your struggle?

Imagine taking a deep breath and stepping back so that you can see not just the mountain you are facing but the entire range of mountains. The psalmist prompts you then to look even higher than the massif to the one who created it. You will find your help there.

This psalmist later reminds you in verse 5, “The LORD watches over you.” He is the “shade at your right hand.” He’s as close as your shadow. Like your shadow, he will be with you every step of the way. He doesn’t want you to take even one step alone.

Can’t even muster the strength to look up? Your loving heavenly Father is close enough to place his strong hands under your chin and help you lift your eyes to him.

**“I BELIEVE GOD IS INVOLVED IN AND
CARES ABOUT MY DAILY LIFE.”**



DAY 5

SALVATION

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

EPHESIANS 2:8–9

Vincent Ardolino watched the Twin Towers explode from his little tugboat in New York Harbor on 9/11. Minutes later, as the towers fell, people swarmed the pier, desperate to vacate the island. Roads, subways, trains, bridges—everything was shut down. The only escape? The water. Many of them leaped in, fearing for their lives.

Vincent urgently turned the prow of his boat toward the island as his wife exclaimed, “What if there’s another attack?!” His response was, “If I only rescue one person, that’s one less person who will suffer and die.” Joined by every boat on the water, Vincent became involved in the greatest sea evacuation since World War II, when 339,000 soldiers were rescued over the span of nine days in Dunkirk. On 9/11, 500,000 civilians were rescued in less than nine hours through the grace gift of these captains. Each person jumping into a boat accepted the gracious gift of a rescue, putting their faith in the boat and its captain.

Jesus offers you the only boat leaving the island of death. You need only jump in with faith and trust him, the Captain.

**“I BELIEVE A PERSON COMES INTO A RIGHT
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD BY GOD’S GRACE
THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.”**



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

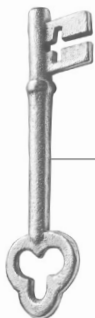
2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17

Remember the first time you walked outside in the winter as a child and saw your breath? Perhaps you leaned too close to a window and saw moisture appear as you exhaled. The oxygen we breathe in becomes carbon dioxide in our lungs. These gases are both invisible, but as we exhale, the carbon dioxide mixes with water vapor, and because cold air has less water vapor than the warm air from our lungs, it produces fog.

But what happens when God exhales? The word for “God-breathed” in 2 Timothy is *theopneustos*, and it gives us a clue. *Theo* means “God”; *pneustos* means “spirit” or “breath.” The first time we see God exhaling is in Genesis when he is breathing life into the nostrils of Adam. In 2 Timothy we again see him breathing out, but instead of fog, God’s spirit or breath becomes words on the tips of men’s pens. Those words bring life to all who study them.

Next time you see your breath on a cold day, remember God exhaled and created words for us to live by. We call it the Bible.

**“I BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF
GOD AND HAS THE RIGHT TO COMMAND
MY BELIEF AND ACTION.”**



DAY 7

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

JOHN 1:12

The words “It’s a boy!” at the birth of our second child brought Rozanne and me tremendous joy. We already had a girl; now we had a boy. Life was perfect—until we noticed that our baby boy was missing his left hand and forearm. Immediately questions flashed through our minds. *Sports? How would the kindergarteners treat him? Where would his wedding ring go? Never mind marriage; what girl would love him with so many men out there with two hands?* And the most alarming question: *Would we love him?* Nurses swaddled our little David and laid him in our arms. And in that moment our greatest fear evaporated. We loved him; there was nothing he had to do to earn our love. He was our son.

Our actions make us feel that God could never love us. The truth is, he loves us not because of what we’ve done, but because of what he has done. He loves us because of who we are—his children.

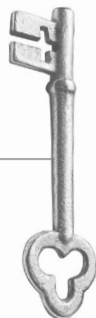
Today David is a successful attorney and has a beautiful wife who loves him dearly. He played sports better than most kids with two hands! While that brings us great joy, it isn’t why we love him. We love him because he’s our son.

God feels the same about you!

**“I BELIEVE I AM SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE OF
MY POSITION AS A CHILD OF GOD.”**

DAY 8

CHURCH



Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

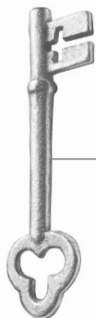
EPHESIANS 4:15

What mother tells her child to chew a pill that is meant to be swallowed? Most likely the child would promptly spit out the pill because of its bitter taste. A thoughtful mother smashes the pill and smothers it in applesauce so the pill goes down easier. Wisdom tells her that if her child spits it out, the healing benefit will be lost.

God calls us to challenge each other to spiritual growth, but if the challenge comes without love, it's the same as chewing a pill that's meant to be swallowed. As a wise believer, you should surround yourself with a few trusted friends who, beyond the shadow of a doubt, love you while your spiritual temperature is normal. Whenever you begin to experience a rise in your spiritual temperature, you can give them permission to challenge you in love.

We all falter from time to time. By preemptively choosing loving believers to monitor your spiritual temperature, you ensure that the truth you have to swallow will be given to you in love. You will also be able to follow their example if and when you need to give the pill of tough love to someone else.

**"I BELIEVE THE CHURCH IS GOD'S PRIMARY WAY
TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES ON EARTH."**



DAY 9

HUMANITY

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

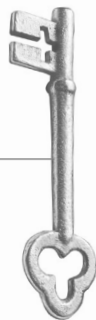
JOHN 3:16

Most Americans claim they are Christian. They aren't Muslim, Jewish, or Hindu; they were raised in church or attend church, and they try to live by the golden rule.

Nicodemus was no different. He was one of the spiritual leaders—in our world, he'd be teaching the adult Sunday school class and serving on the elder board. Nicodemus had memorized all the laws and tried to live out each one. Secretly approaching Jesus, he was sure Jesus would assure him he had done everything needed to gain a relationship with God. After all, he had been working for this his whole life. And that is when Jesus said the words above, from the most famous verse in the Bible. They were spoken not to a person outside the church, but to one of its leaders.

Many people attempt to live good lives, working hard to make sure they secure an eternal relationship with their Creator. Like Nicodemus, however, they have missed the one thing they need to gain access to a true relationship with God. God wants nothing more than to be in relationship with you, but unless you accept the free gift of his Son, you cannot enter into it.

**"I BELIEVE ALL PEOPLE ARE LOVED BY GOD
AND NEED JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR SAVIOR."**



Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

PSALM 82:3–4

Freddy was a classmate of mine in junior high school. He had a condition referred to (at the time) as “water on the brain.” The excess fluid around his skull created an oversize and awkward head for Freddy. Junior high school is an awful place to be different. Immature people create the worst possible names for our apparent weaknesses. Freddy was called Watermelon Head.

One day between classes in a hallway filled with people, a group of boys started picking on Freddy. They called him names and shoved him around. This was the same year I became a Christian. Something was stirring in me, something that wasn’t there before—or perhaps I should say *Someone*.

I felt compelled to go and stand between Freddy and the bullies. But in the end, I did nothing. Forty years later I still think about this incident. As a new, immature Christian, I failed Freddy, and he took the abuse with no advocate. I am so sorry, Freddy. With God’s forgiveness granted, I wake up each day praying for the courage to “defend,” to “uphold the cause,” and to “rescue” the Freddys God puts in my life.

**“I BELIEVE GOD CALLS ALL CHRISTIANS TO
SHOW COMPASSION TO PEOPLE IN NEED.”**