

SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP
CLASS 3
BELIEVERS VS. DISCIPLES

Characteristics of a believer
Jam. 2:18-20 (KJV)

Believest, believe - **G4100**

pisteuō

pist-yoo'-o

From [G4102](#); to *have faith* (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, *credit*; by implication to *entrust* (especially one's spiritual well being to Christ):—believe (-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.

G4102

pistis

pis'-tis

From [G3982](#); *persuasion*, that is, *credence*; moral *conviction* (of *religious* truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially *reliance* upon Christ for salvation; abstractly *constancy* in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) *truth* itself:—assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

G3982

peithō

pi'-tho

A primary verb; to *convince* (by argument, true or false); by analogy to *pacify* or *conciliate* (by other fair means); reflexively or passively to *assent* (to evidence or authority), to *rely* (by inward certainty):—agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be (wax) content, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield.

The word faith in vs. 20 is the Greek word pistis; therefore, the root word of the word believe is the word faith.

So what defines a believer? A believer is one who is convinced that something is true. Whether the thing is true does not matter. We all make decisions or are convinced of things based on the amount of information that has been presented to us. A jury, for example, makes judgments based on the information presented to them. They then must make a decision based on who they believe. Their decision, however, is not necessarily based on truth, but it is based on what they believe to be true.

Characteristics of a disciple
Heb. 11 (KJV)

v.4 – by faith Abel offered

v. 5 – by faith Enoch was translated because he pleased God. The words “had this testimony” in this verse are translated from the same Greek word that the words “obtained a good report” are translated from in v. 2.

v. 7 – by faith Noah prepared

v. 8 – by faith Abraham obeyed

v. 9 – by faith Abraham sojourned (or resided as a foreigner)

- v. 17 – by faith Abraham offered up Isaac
- v. 20 – by faith Isaac blessed
- v. 21 – by faith Jacob blessed
- v. 22 – by faith Joseph made mention and gave commandment
- v. 23 – by faith Moses was hid
- v. 24 – by faith Moses refused
- v. 25 – by faith Moses chose to suffer
- v. 26 – by faith Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt
- v. 27 – by faith Moses forsook Egypt
- v. 29 – by faith they passed through the Red Sea
- v. 30 – by faith the walls of Jericho were compassed and fell
- v. 31 – by faith Rahab received the spies

Heb. 11:3 (KJV)

³Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Rom. 4: 17

KJV - (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

AMP - As it is written, I have made you the father of many nations. [He was appointed our father] in the sight of God in Whom he believed, Who gives life to the dead and speaks of the nonexistent things that [He has foretold and promised] as if they [already] existed.

The distinction between a believer and a disciple

James 1:22-25 (KJV)

²²But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

²³For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

²⁴For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

*²⁵But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed **in his deed**.*

Deceiving - G3884

paralogizomai
 par-al-og-id'-zom-ahee

From [G3844](#) and [G3049](#); to misreckon, that is, delude:—beguile, deceive.

Luke 6:46-49 (KJV)

⁴⁶And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

⁴⁷Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like:

⁴⁸He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

⁴⁹But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

The primary distinction between a believer and a disciple is the doing of the Word of God. To call Jesus Lord is to call Him Master, which would imply that the one calling Him Master is a servant or slave to the Lord Jesus. A servant or slave does what the Master says, without question. A slave has completely given up his or her own will to that of the Master. Slavemasters used to beat the slaves so that they would comply with the will of the slavemaster. The truth of the matter is, we choose to be either a slave to the Lord Jesus Christ, or a slave to sin. So what we do or do not do is an indication of who owns us.

NOTES
