



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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The Meaning of “Believe”

When the great missionary, John G. Paton, was translating the Scriptures into the language of those to whom he was seeking to bring Christ, he could not find **a word to use for faith, or belief.** Apparently there was **no native word for “believe.”** For a long time Dr. Paton was baffled. One day, while working on the translation, a native came into his study, and, tired out, flung himself down on a chair, rested his feet on another chair, and lay back full length, saying as he did so something about how good it was **to lean his whole weight on** those chairs. Instantly Dr. Patton noted **the word** the man had used **for “lean his whole weight on.”** The missionary had his **word for “believe!”** The word is fitting because **it pictures the scriptural meaning of believing in Christ—something more than mere mental acquiescence or acknowledgement** of the historical existence of Jesus Christ! **It is active!** When one **believes in Jesus,** he **accepts the concept** that Jesus is God the Son, Lord and Master of his life. The acceptance of that truth **demands repentance of sin** since sin is essentially the consequence of being one's own boss rather than permitting God that right. He now **“leans his whole weight on”** Christ!

In John 3:16 we read, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth on (leans his whole weight on) him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**”* At the end of his book John says that the things he wrote about Jesus *“are written, that ye might **believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing (leaning your whole weight on Him) ye might have life through his name.**”* (John 20:31). I urge you to do this now. Acts 16:31 declares, *“**Believe on (lean your whole weight on) the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.**”*