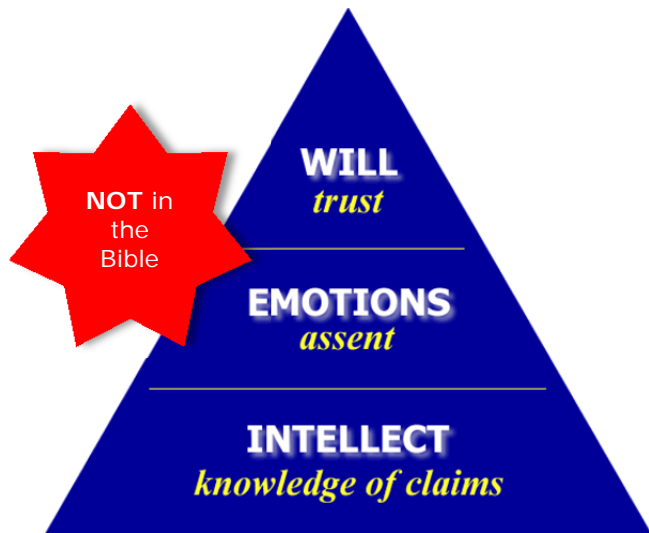

What Belief (or Faith) Is NOT

1. **Belief (“Faith”) Is NOT Something That Is Measurable:**
The question is not “do you have enough belief” (*quantitative*). The question is “do you believe God’s promise” -- *period*. (*qualitative* – yes or no, I do or I don’t, *light on or off*). See Luke 17:3-6; 1 John 5:1. Belief is *not* based upon your ability to get enough of it!
2. **Belief Is NOT Something Beyond Assent To The Truth:**
Many try to divide conversion into 3 steps to cover the man-made “intellect, emotions, and will” scheme. It is said that the intellect understands the claims of God, the emotions believe the claims, and somehow the will “appropriates” that belief. It is stated that *without this “appropriation” salvation is impossible*. There is no Biblical basis for this three-fold division (neither Jesus nor Paul used it) or it’s “belief-confusing” terminology.

Quantitative (Having *Enough* Faith Saves You)



With this view, you can somehow assent (believe or have faith in) to the truth, but yet not believe enough to be saved (hence “saving faith”). This view often focuses on appropriation, the point of conversion, and the person (how you felt or what you meant).

2 Common [but erroneous] Illustrations that Promote This View:

- *The Chair* – You hear that a chair will hold you, & assent that it can, but until you sit in the chair (appropriate the truth), you are not “exercising” faith.
- *The Elevator* – You hear that the elevator will take you up, and believe that it can, but you have to get on the elevator to appropriate it.

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – August, 2011

These illustrations are both good examples of trying to make teaching back up an illustration rather than using an illustration to explain teaching. It also is a good example of how poor teaching is passed on and on.

Analytical Questions:

1. *How much faith or belief is enough? How do you know that you have enough? How is it measured to make sure?*
2. *How do you appropriate the truth? Where is the Bible backing? Men’s ideas?*

Qualitative (On or Off – Either You Believe or You Do Not)



Either you believe or don’t believe God’s claims. Either you take what God says as true, or you reject it as untrue. You can understand God’s claims without believing them to be true. But belief **alone** is what is required to save and to walk with God. (John 3:18,36; Acts 16:30-31; Rom 4:20-21; Col 2:2-7).

Illustration: *Light Switch* – if the light is on (if belief exists now, it obviously began sometime). – 1 John 5:1

3. Belief (“Faith”) Is NOT A Power Itself:

“Faith” is a well- **abused** term because people misunderstand what “faith” means. *Belief (or “faith”) is not a power itself. Simply “having faith” or “holding on to my faith” in some type of self-reliance is NOT Biblical faith. Believing in something God has not promised is worthless.*

*Our belief does not save us. Our belief **IN God’s ability and reliability to do what He says** is what God requires for HIM to save us. **God saves us based upon His promise to do so when we believe what He has said about His Son and His Son’s death and resurrection. Do you believe?***