

Beyond Believing Part I; October 22, 2017

How far beyond “just believing” are you?

I seek to reflect the character of Jesus in every area of my life.

My walk with God is active, growing, and exciting.

I can point to tangible changes God is making in me.

Serving, giving, and sharing my God-story with others are regular parts of my life.

I startle people by the depth of my commitment to Jesus.

One day when large groups of people were walking along with him, Jesus turned and told them, “Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one’s own self!—can’t be my disciple. Anyone who won’t shoulder his own cross and follow behind me can’t be my disciple.

– Luke 14:25-27 (MSG)

“You’ve Got To Leave To Follow”

You can’t stay who you were and become who God has called you to be!

God calls us to a different way of thinking.

Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

– Romans 12:2 (NLT)

God calls us to a different way of relating.

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.

– Matthew 5:43-45 (NLT)

God calls us to a different way of living.

He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

– 2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT)

God demands our highest commitment!

You must not have any other god but me.

– Exodus 20:3 (NLT)

Often the hardest person to put God ahead of is ME!

There is an ongoing “death” in pursuing “life”!

Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

– Luke 9:23 (NLT)