

**So this year we focus on the thought of REACH.**

We don't want our WALK with God to become this sad, week, meaningless stroll or trot.  
We want to continually grow, going deeper down and further in....so we REACH

The Bottom line of the year is this:

**What you believe influences what you do so in all you do REACH**

**(Phil 3:12)** is home for us in REACH – I haven't obtained this, I am not perfect, not there yet, so I press on to make it my own. I strengthen my faith/belief – I work this out in my life, my actions.

**Our Faith**, (our thinking, our belief) influences **our practice** (our actions, how we live)

**What you believe influences what you do**

So tonight we start with Reaching in our Faith, our Belief, we want to have right thinking we need to strengthen this... always growing in wisdom & knowledge.

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**Tonight we start going through the Apostle's creed.**

- **What's a Creed?** it's a statement of belief. a declaration of what you think to be true.  
**Creed means Belief**
- **Did the Apostles write it?** No, but it holds the doctrine of what they wrote in Scripture.  
It's a teaching of what God has said, of what is true about the faith

Jl Packer said the Apostle's Creed is the simplified road map for the follower.

**it helps the follower of Christ see at a glance what Bible speaks of in specifics.**

The Creed hits the main points of what the follower of Christ believes

**If our actions are influenced by our beliefs we must be sure of what we believe**

The Creed is a great way for us to look at these high points from Scripture and allow them to spill over into our lives....to give us confidence, a certainty as we walk in a place that is confusing and challenging

So the creed is not something outside the Bible....it is a statement that affirms what the Bible teaches.  
So in studying it we are studying Scripture and simplifying it's message to hide it in our heart.

**So we'll walk through it, gaining wisdom, knowledge, "pressing on to make it our own".**

Really we're doing what we're challenged to do in **2 Peter 3:18 (Turn & Read)**

**READ Together the Apostles Creed from Screen****:We begin with "I Believe"**

When people are asked what they believe in they give different sorts of answers of what they think/believe

- I believe in UFO's – meaning "I think UFO's are real"
- I believe snake bites hurt– meaning "I think they hurt"
- I believe that we will win – "I have confidence though I am not certain" (the other sounds better)

But what does it mean when the follower says "I Believe."

I can believe in UFO's without ever looking for one

I can believe snake bites hurt without ever getting bitten

I can believe we will win without ever seeing my team practice.

But when the writers of the CREED said **"I believe in God"** it meant **"I am believing into God.**

*a Greek phrase started by those who wrote the NT*

**What's this phrase mean?** It is Over and above believing certain truths about God.

It is being absolutely convinced of something

A person who has been bitten by a snake(**believes**) knows that it hurts while I still believe it would hurt though I've not been bitten. **The other person is absolutely convinced that it hurts.** I just think it would

When I say: **"I Believe"** - I am professing my conviction that God has revealed himself to me and I'm declaring that I have accepted his invitation.

We'll get to what He has revealed the next few months but for now we need to zero in on what it really means in this statement to BELIEVE

**I Believe is a stronger faith than the faith I have in snake bites hurting.**

Turn & Read **Hebrews 11:6**

Without Faith (*This firm belief*) it is impossible to please Him (*with my thinking and actions*)

Faith is the english speaking way to say the "Believe into" in the greek.

**it's a trustful commitment** – think of riding in a car with someone,  
that's the kind of faith we believe into God with.

What does this look like? I willingly, though maybe in a scared way, get in the car.  
It's trust, commitment,

This is a cool thing, crucial thing. Notice the beginning is "I Believe"

This is meant for each person to speak for himself.

Just because you believe someone can drive doesn't mean I'm getting in the car.  
I've got to believe this...**{6 flags, I tried to talk Brynn and Ivy into the acrophobia}**

Your faith & your belief **should be** your faith & your belief.

You no doubt inherit much of what you believe and follow from parents, people (God's grace)

But at some point become YOUR OWN.

Here's a statement that is true and powerful

**What comes to your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about us.** (Tozer)

How can this be true? Why is that the most important thing about us?

Because God, His glory, a life lived for Him is the most crucial thing in this life.

So then, **what we THINK, what we Believe to be true, about Him is crucial**

Because what we THINK or BELIEVE influences how you act and how you live.

## **:Bottom Line**

What **you** believe will forever change your life & the life of those around you.

If this doesn't happen then your belief may really be a doubt.

We don't want our WALK to become a remedial trot or a boring stroll. Never staying the same  
we continually grow, always going deeper down and further in. This starts with our belief.

## **:What Now?**

### **1. I press on to make it my own –**

do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of God.

#### **How?**

- By being present at Church – physically & mentally (really be here)
- Getting in the word for myself (devos, reading plan)
- By becoming involved in God's work, personally and through His Church
- By waging war on sin, dealing with it, and trusting in Christ **(dying to self daily)**

### **2. Maybe I go from doubting to trusting and saying for the first time....I Believe.**

Maybe God is leading you to confess your sins to Him and place your faith in His Son Jesus.

Maybe tonight you are able to say for the first time....I Believe.

We'd love to talk with you about how to being this life of following Jesus.