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Do you really, truly, in your heart, believe?

Popular theology interprets certain passages of scripture to mean that you can only be saved - only be a child of the Father - if you really, truly believe in Jesus.

Of course, the gospel is the good news of humanity's adoption in Christ (Eph. 1:1-5, Rom. 5:18, Col. 1:19-20). The scripture says to us: first of all, you belong, you are the Father's child; now, do you believe what you've just been told?

If it were the other way around, if we had to believe and then we would belong, we would all be up the creek without a paddle. We would be toast. All hope would be gone and all humanity would be consigned to hell for all eternity.

The reason is simple. No one is capable of really, truly, in his heart, believing in Jesus 24/7/365 forever. We are too weak, too fallen and too blind. The only way we can believe in the Father is if Jesus shares his belief with us through his Spirit.

The Triune God has first adopted us into his life so that we can now share in the self-knowledge and self-belief that the Father, Son and Spirit have of each other.

Do you really, truly, in your heart, believe? No you don't. Thank God Almighty Jesus believes for you and with you and in you!

~ Jonathan Stepp