

THE  
LANDBETWEEN MINISTRIES

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**Q: What is the mission of The LandBetween Ministries?**

**A: The LandBetween Ministries exists to edify pastors and lay-leaders in God’s Word as they mobilize the body of Christ to complete His Great Commission.**

**GALILEE: LESSONS FROM YAHWEH’S LAND PT. 2**

A few months ago an earthquake shook me awake at 4:39 a.m. It was a feeling of subjection to incredible power. You can’t stop an earthquake, flood, or tornado. The question is not *if* we go through life’s “storms”, but *how*? Do we have faith or fear?

During a seminary course in Israel, we were on the Sea of Galilee. It was getting late in the day. Clouds swirling overhead mirrored the churned white-capped waves. Storms on Galilee can brew as fast as your morning coffee. Would we get stuck in a storm?

My mind raced back to the disciples’ storm on Galilee. I understand why they were fearful. They did not see a way out of their nasty storm because they failed to put their trust in Jesus.

When they gave Jesus His wake-up call He seemed perplexed at their fear. He credited their fear with a lack of faith (Mt. 9:25-26).

Like the disciples, we can feel abandoned in life’s storms. In the midst of it all Jesus calls us to a life of faith, a life of trusting and relying on Him. In His sovereign will and perfect timing He will make all things beautiful for His faithful followers.

While on Galilee, I did not want to see a cloudy end to our day. As the day closed, the clouds cleared and the wind calmed.

We saw an incredible sunset. A peaceful, golden blanket of sun spread over ripples of Galilee’s fresh water.

As you serve in ministry, remember that Jesus still reigns over the storms. He is as loving and reliable as ever (Heb. 13:8). He still commands our faith in the storms. Our faith in Christ leads not to exemption from life’s storms today, but from their eternal permanence. Life’s storms and hardships can move us closer or further away from a rich fellowship with Christ. The choice is ours if we walk close with Him.



Oswald Chambers said, “Two boats can sail in opposite directions in the same wind, according to the skill of the pilot.” If we choose the Holy Spirit to pilot our lives, we

can let Him navigate us through life’s storms and sail us into the eternal safety of heaven. Jesus is our forerunner (Heb. 6:20) who has gone before us to prepare a place in heaven (Jn. 14:1-2) that we may dock on heaven’s shore and be warmly welcomed in to our eternal home.

Between now and heaven, we must let Christ’s light shine through us in the darkness of this world’s sin (Mt. 5:16). We must keep trusting in Christ, the Anchor of our souls, who is able to calm all our fears.

**PRAYER  
NEEDS:**

• *Provision for the minimum \$2,300.00 still needed for equipment to reach pastors and lay-leaders at an international level.*

• *That God would raise up more \$50/month financial donors and prayer supporters to this ministry.*

• *For more speaking and writing opportunities which will advance the purposes of the Kingdom.*

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## BIBLICAL FAITH — WHAT IS IT? BY JOEL FRANCIS © 2008

### Faith and Belief...How Do They Relate?

*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” — Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)*

#### Faith

Heb. 11:6 exemplifies the interconnection of faith and belief. In the Bible, the words “faith” and “believe” come from the same Greek root word. The word translated into English as “faith” is the noun *pistis* and “believe” is the verb “*pisteuo*”. So, the first step in activating a living *faith* is to *believe*. . .

#### To Believe

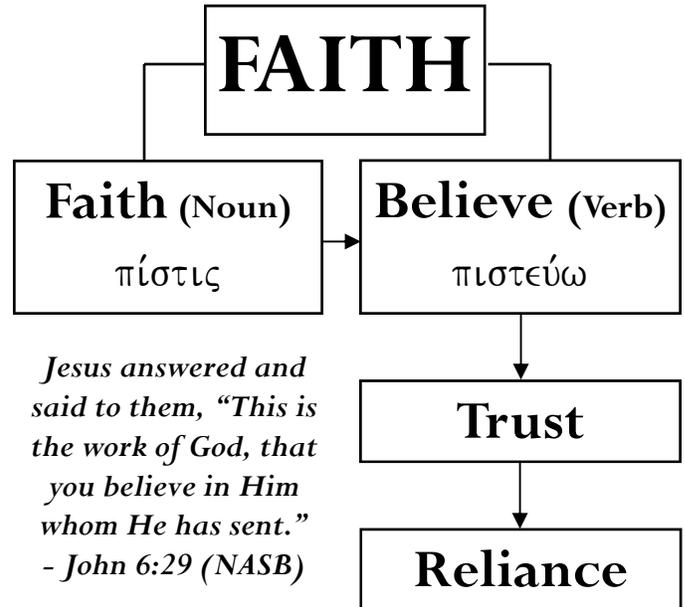
Jesus said our “work” was to “believe” in Him (Jn. 6:29). We’re not saved by good works (Eph. 2:8-9). Faith without works is dead (James 2:17). Dead faith is merely belief that cognitively acknowledges something exists or is fact. For example, most people acknowledge that gravity exists. In contrast, biblical “belief” is not merely mental note of “Sure, that’s true.” Rather, it’s a complete and personal entrusting of one’s soul, mind, and spirit in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and His sacrificial, transforming love.

To believe is to trust your whole being to Christ. As a result of trusting in Him He transforms your life. (Jn. 3:16).

To have faith is to believe, and to believe requires trust. Trust means complete reliance on someone or something. Faith and belief propel us to completely relying on Christ to do for us what only He can do. Only Christ can provide for us which we need to rely on Him? Only Christ can atone for our sins and only Christ can give us the Holy Spirit, who is our Teacher and Counselor who guides us through this fallen world (Jn. 16:13). Just as Christ relied on His father’s leading for all He did, we too are to rely on the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit for all we do.

We’re all created to be “reliant” on someone or something in order to survive. Rich or poor, all of us rely on air to breathe. To survive, we all rely on water, food, and shelter from the elements. God has created us to be completely reliant on Him. To *believe* we must *rely* on the Word and the Holy Spirit’s lordship. Regarding reliance, a good question to consistently ask yourself is: “*Am I relying on God’s Word and the Holy Spirit to lead what I’m doing right now?*” Thus, faith includes relying on what you can’t see (Heb. 11:1) and having confidence in the Person of Christ (Col 1:27) and in the promises that He will fulfill.

Reliance is a form of trusting. Every rock climber relies on footholds and handholds to make it up the climb. To keep from dying, most climbers also rely on ropes to catch their falls. As we “climb” through each day, we all rely on different “handholds” of thoughts that lead to the decisions we make. Our choices huge impact on our lives.



As we make daily choices, we can rely on insight from God’s Word and the Holy Spirit, or temptations of the Enemy.

The Scripture contains powerful narratives of how reliance on God leads to good choices. Yahweh speaks of trust and reliance in parallel terms in Is. 50:10. He challenges those who are in darkness to trust in His name and to rely on Him as their God. Billy Graham has chosen to rely on Christ. He prays while speaking with others; relying on the Holy Spirit for how to relate with them. We need to be totally dependent on the Holy Spirit and His Word.

As fully God and fully man, Jesus was *reliant* on His Father’s directions for all that He did on earth. Jesus speaks of this *trusting* relationship in John 5:19,

“So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.’”

Also, Jesus reveals the Holy Spirit’s reliance within the Trinity. John 16:16 says,

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

The principle in Jn. 16:16 is related to both authority and community. The Holy Spirit relies on what He hears before He speaks, which is a divine example of how the three Persons of the Trinity work in authoritative community. They work together to accomplish various Kingdom tasks and purposes. As created in the image of God, we too can have the faith that propels us into the divine work of the Trinity. We can reveal to the world great faith by great work (Js. 2:18).

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION BY JOEL FRANCIS © 2008

### Distinct

People pay a lot of money for what is unique and distinct. Christie's, Sotheby's and other high-end auctions only sell unique, expensive items to their clients. Paid for through the blood of Christ on the cross. As believers we are promised something far more distinct and valuable than any possession in the world. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, our bodies too will be resurrected and joined with our souls. (Rom. 6:5).

### Jesus' Resurrection Is our Redemptive Road

Jesus sets the example for us of only doing what He saw His Heavenly Father doing (John 5:19), which meant walking in His steps. Of all of the "paths" that Jesus walked while on earth, His death and resurrection were what makes our faith as believers in Christ unique from all other beliefs.

Paul states clearly that if Christ was not raised from the dead then our faith is vain and empty (1 Cor. 15:15-16). As Christ has a resurrected body, our bodies will also be resurrected. In John 20:16, Jesus was in His resurrected body when Mary heard His voice and immediately recognized Him. Also, Jesus having scars on His hands and feet in His glorified body indicates we will carry over similar features.

### Jesus Determines Our Value

C.S. Lewis speaks of our bodily resurrection: "*The old field of space, time, matter, and the senses is to be weeded, dug, and sown for a new crop. We may be tired of that old field: God is not.*" God values our bodies enough to resurrect them.

Just like His love, His infinite value of our bodies and spirits remains the same. On earth, constant changes of seasons occur. The "resurrection" of spring with new growth is only a picture of *resuscitation*. Fall and winter will come again and the leaves and flowers will die. *Resurrection* means that we will look similar as we do now, but will be alive forever in glorious bodies. Our new bodies will show God's power over death. Ps. 49:15 says, "*But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol (abode of the dead); for He will receive me.*" (NASB — Italics mine). Jesus' resurrection means that as His body was raised to immortality, our bodies will be transformed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ (1 Cor. 15:51-55).

### Gnosticism

An unbiblical Greek belief system called Gnosticism claimed that certain people had a "higher" spiritual knowledge through secret initiatives, etc. Also, it claimed that the spiritual element was "good" and the material (i.e. physical) was "bad." The Scriptures teach that our bodies are God's temple for the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19) and are important enough that we are to offer them as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1-2).

Since we are made in God's image and God chose to create us with bodies, we need to highly value His "temples."

### Will Non-Believers be Resurrected?

The Scriptures teach that the bodies of non-believers in Christ will be resurrected. The bodies of non-believers will be "standing before the throne" as the books are opened and they are judged (Rev. 20:12). This truth contrasts a heretical belief called Annihilationism, which says that the wicked will be judged, cast into hell, and will then cease to exist. This system of thought is debunked by passages such as Matt. 25:46, which teaches that the punishment of the wicked will be for eternity. A biblical scholar and author recently shared with me that Annihilationism will rise to prominence as a precursor for another heretical belief that all will be saved. This heretical belief, Universalism, maintains that there will be no eternal punishment for those without Christ. However, the Scriptures teach there will be the resurrection of the dead bodies of the righteous and the unrighteous to eternal existences in either the joy of heaven or the torments of hell (Acts 24:15). The second resurrection is significant because those who have rejected Christ's forgiveness leads their soul and body to hell. For believers the "second death" has no power over us (Rev. 20:6).

### Why is Jesus' Resurrection Significant?

The key reason why Jesus' resurrection from the death is significant is that it points to the deity of Jesus (Rom. 1:4).

Jesus' resurrection means that He can be trusted as Lord of all lords. We can solidly put our faith in the One who is "imperishable" (1 Cor. 15:42).

We can rely on the infinite power of God through Christ to raise our bodies from the grave. Paul speaks of this power when writing from prison to the church in Philippi. Paul knew the power of Jesus' resurrection (Phil 3:10), which gave him hope that Jesus would meet Paul's need for resurrection into eternal life (Phil. 3:11).

What does the Bible say is one reason we're "born again"? We're transformed to having hope that is now living and eternal life because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:3). Hope is so powerful that Paul was put on trial for his hope in Christ and the resurrection of the dead (Acts 23:6). In biblical Greek, hope has the idea of "expectation." We can confidently expect that our own resurrection will take place because of Jesus' resurrection. Our hope in the resurrection gives us confidence to live unashamedly for Christ in a lost world (Rom. 1:16). Our hope in Christ's resurrection makes us distinct. Along with Paul, we have the redemptive hope of Christ's resurrection and experience its power working through us.

## “CRY OUT” TO THE LORD BY JOEL FRANCIS © 2008

### Why Did God’s People “Cry Out” to the LORD?

Dr. Paul Brand, MD, and Philip Yancey co-authored a book, “Pain: The Gift Nobody Wants.” The book teaches that physical pain is a “gift” to our bodies because it triggers a warning response that something is wrong and it needs a remedy. Tests of our faith can spread pain and bitterness to our hearts, resulting in our resenting God. But, internal pain can also move us to prayer and to seek God’s healing.

There were numerous occasions in the OT in when the people of God cycled through the following: Disobedience — Oppression — Repentance — Deliverance. The “oppression” stage usually came upon the people because of their disobedience to Yahweh’s commands. Numerous times the ancient Israelites “. . . did evil in the eyes of the LORD” (Judg. 2:11; 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1). When attacked by enemies and/or the results of their sin became too painful, they finally “cried out” to the Lord for deliverance. When a genuine turning from sin took place, Yahweh provided deliverance from oppression through various agents such as Joshua and Gideon. In the New Covenant, Christ is the “deliverer” of repentant hearts from the coming judgment of God (1 Thess. 1:10).

Other times in the OT, the people “cried out” to Yahweh for relief from subjection to evil, harsh authorities, such as Pharaoh (Gen. 41:55). Their dire times drove them to Yahweh for deliverance. They took their hardships their Heavenly Father. He is gracious, merciful, slow to become angry, overflowing with loyal love, and prefers not to send His wrath (Jonah 4:2). God is the same today. He is waiting for you with open arms and a loving heart. He is the One we can go to at any time with our hurting hearts and broken lives.

Do we take the time to find the root of the pain in our hearts? King David requested Yahweh to search his heart for sin. Do we try to medicate our hurting hearts with food, alcohol, lust, pride, or anger? Or do we cry out to God in repentance? It is our responsibility to “cry out” to God. And, by drawing near to Him, He promises to draw near to us (James 4:8).

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The LandBetween Ministries is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions to The LandBetween Ministries are tax-deductible.

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### What Should I Do First When my Soul is in Pain?

A foundational step for healing and freedom is to believe that God cares for you and is able to deliver you from sin and oppression (Mt. 11:28-29). From Eden onwards, the Enemy of our soul has been working hard to convince us that God is distant, cruel, and doesn’t empathize with our pain. Because Satan knows he is doomed forever, he is trying to destroy the deep healing and joy that comes from a close walk with Christ. We can believe Jesus is able to destroy the lies of Satan and bring us healing and joy (Is. 61:1; Lk. 4:18).

Our belief in Christ needs to go beyond only trusting Him for salvation. Believing in Christ is an ongoing process that includes relying on Him to work in and through us. Jesus longed for hurting and distressed people to cry out to Him. But those who choose to remain in their sins of pride and rebellion, will be in pain until they cry out to God for deliverance (i.e. Mt. 17:17; Lk. 8:25). Biblical belief requires taking action by prayer, repentance, and relying on our Heavenly Father. We can trust Him to bring healing to our hearts in ways that only He can.

### “Crying Out” to God in Repentance

Another step in finding healing is to make sure the pain experience is not because of your own sin (1 Pet. 3:17). If we sin it is because we love it and are too proud to admit it and change. Just as we get away from repugnant odors, God finds our sins a stench. He does not fellowship closely with those wreaking with sin. Instead, we are to be a pleasant “aroma” of Christ to the Father (2 Cor 2:15). Repentance from sin means doing a 180° turn from it and coming to Jesus with the desperate cry of a beggar, saying, “. . . have mercy on me” (Mk. 10:47). “Repentance” for many is no more than a short glib prayer of, “I’m sorry, Lord.” There is no serious expectation of real life change. To our loss, we can mock the horribly painful sacrifice of Christ on the cross by dismissing sin with, “Well, we’re all sinners anyway.” As a result, many have unnecessary internal pain from unrepentant sin and the devastating guilt from it embedded in their hearts.

Finally, we all need to “cry out” in prayer to the Father to block the Enemy’s arrows coming at our hearts. (Eph. 6:16). We must always trust that: a) God hears our cries. b) He deeply cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). c) He is able to deliver us in incredible ways from our deep hurts (Eph. 3:20-21). How great is our God!!!

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*Upcoming Topics? If you have a question or want an article on a particular topic, please send an e-mail to: [jfrancis4@yahoo.com](mailto:jfrancis4@yahoo.com).*

**“PEOPLE...MOCK  
 THE...SACRIFICE  
 OF CHRIST ON  
 THE CROSS BY  
 RESPONDING TO  
 SIN WITH,  
 “WELL, WE’RE  
 ALL SINNERS  
 ANYWAY.”**