

Objective or Subjective Belief

Anyone can stand at the window, see the tree branches waving, and deduce that it's windy - **Objective Belief**, that is knowing without experiencing it. Better yet, go outside and feel the force of the wind. Now it becomes **Subjective Belief**, that is benefitting personally from what is known.

A French aerialist, Charles Blondin, came to America to demonstrate his talent. In 1859 a cable was stretched across Niagara Gorge just below the falls. The span was 1100 feet or 340 meters. With only his long pole for balance he crossed over and back, to admiring, cheering crowds. Then he did stunts such as taking a small stove on his back, and out in the middle, he fried eggs, lowering the finished product to the S.S. Maid of the Mist hovering below. Then he carried his manager on his back from one side to the other and return. A wheelbarrow was next, over and back. When the crowd quieted down he asked if they believed he could take a man across in it. They enthusiastically believed he could. That's **Objective Belief**. Then he asked a cheering man in front, "*Sir, would you kindly climb into my wheelbarrow?*". This was the true test of **Subjective Belief**. The man quickly replied, "*No sir, not me!*"

Millions believe that a creator God exists, **Objectively**. But most don't really want to know Him personally. Same with Jesus Christ, God's Son. A great many people believe He lived, died and rose again, but never go on from there to **Subjectively** believing that He died for them. Without that simple faith, there is no salvation. And we would expect that faith to grow and be firmly established as the Word of God is read.

Believe in your heart – The meaning of “believe” in the Bible includes: trust in, rely on, rest upon, have confidence in. All those thoughts would be necessary before the man would climb aboard the wheelbarrow. Anyone daring enough to go across Niagara in a wheelbarrow would need to be ready to leave everything about his accomplishments, his relationships, his pride, on the edge of the gorge and commit himself totally to Blondin. And in the process, understanding that Blondin's passenger could not cross that chasm on his own. So it is with Jesus; God's invitation is simply to move from **Objective** to **Subjective** belief in His Son. Each of us, in order to have our load of sins removed permanently, needs to lay aside everything of self and simply trust in Jesus Christ, acknowledging His power to forgive sins and accepting Him as Lord of my life. It includes trusting that the blood He spilled at Calvary's cross would be effective to accomplish everything He offers. "*Without shedding of blood there is no remission*" Heb. 9:22. Jesus is the only one who can get us safely across (cf Acts 4:12).

"The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin" 1 John 1:7.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not on unto thine own understanding" Proverbs 3:5.

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" Romans 10:9.

Lorne Perry for Vision 2020 in 2023

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