

# I Believe In God The Father

Message by **Samuel A. Bakutana**,

the National Coordinator, Delta Communities Uganda

*Leadership Consultant, Inspirational Speaker, and Personal Development Author*

Delivered at All Saints Cathedral Kampala, on Sunday, Jan.17, 2016



Scriptural Reference: Acts 17:22-28 and Matthew 7:7-11

## Introduction:

Two days ago, we had the “Presidential debate” after which a friend sent me her evaluation which I relay to you: *“It was impossible not to see the exceptional confidence of a General; the intelligently thought-about answers of a pastor; the unusual calmness of a fighter; the hilarious input of an entrant; the intellectual approach of a professor; the humanitarian concern of a social worker; the tactical answers of a veteran; and a well-planned silence of a strategist!”* To me, these are characteristics we actually need in all our leaders. We need exceptionally confident and intelligently calm leaders, who are hilarious, intellectual, and humanitarian strategists!

However, all these traits are flowers; we need to focus on roots. Roots mean the value system that informs one’s actions, that is, what drives what one does or doesn’t do. Roots mean the Philosophical foundation that determines one’s decisions. Roots mean the Ideological bedrock that affects one’s policies. Roots mean the World view that spells one’s truth. You cannot have truth hanging in a vacuum, standing in a corner of nowhere. As for me, therefore, I do not only look at the “flowers” but focus on one’s “roots”. I hasten to add that the Judeo-Christian world view is superior because it offers a relationship with Jesus Christ who is the strongest, most reliable, and unchanging foundation upon which we can build any structure – spiritual, social, financial or political.

## The Concept of Belief:

In John 6:66-69, people followed Jesus for various reasons: Miracles and wonders, Food (bread and fish), Leadership, Enemies of God (fault finders spying for Rome); Opportunists (“what shall we get?” – v68). But there was another group of people who followed Jesus because they knew Who He was and believed in Him. All these believed in their ideals, philosophies, and agendas! That’s why I often say that all of us are in the “ARK of belief”. We are believers, but not in the biblical sense, per se. I have come to categorize human beings in three groups in regard to belief:

1. ***Atheistic Believers:*** These passionately “BELIEVE” that there is No God. Unfortunately (or rightly), Psalm 14:1 labels them “Fools”.
2. ***Religious Believers:*** These “BELIEVE” the existence of God. They even talk about Him and at times praise Him *“with their lips but their hearts are far away”* from Him.

3. *Kingdom Believers*: The truly BELIEVE in the existence of God, have put their faith trust in Him, and they gave their lives to His lordship. They are kingdom citizens who walk in the blessings of being the royal priesthood.

### Paul Found Group 2 In Athens:

In Acts 17:16, there was no city in the world that had more idols than the City of Athens! In verse 18, Paul found the “Epicureans” (followers of a man called Epicurus) who believed that gods existed in names, not in power. Their focus was gratification of appetites and pleasure. The “Stoicks” (followers of Zeno) believed in the existence of gods but that human affairs depended on fate, not on these gods! So, Paul’s emphasis on “Jesus and the resurrection” led him to the “Areopagus” (The Hill of Mars) in verse 19 which was the most reputable Athenian council court. In verse 21, they wanted him to explain “some new thing” he was teaching, something newer than the last they had learnt, the latest discovery! Therefore, even today, there are 4 types of people who fall in Group 2: (a) Those who say that God is only a name, not a powerful Being. (b) Those who say that God truly exists but life depends on chance. (c) Those who say that tradition says God exists; but Christianity is foreign; and (d) Those who say that learning something new is okay e.g. this God-thing!

To sum it up, we daily see a people religiously obsessed with idolatrous substitutes and a largely vague understanding of God! These are the ones Paul called “superstitious” in verse 22, a kind of people who were greatly addicted to religion, not the kingdom of God. As an indication of this, they even had an altar for “The Unknown God”! The challenge of our time is having religion without a kingdom encounter with God! I am glad I got a personal encounter with God close to 2 decades ago and I have a personal relationship with Him!

### The God We Believe In:

We should long to know God, not just know about God. Paul helps us understand this God the Father we believe in. He is the Maker of the world and all things therein (v24); the Lord of heaven and earth: doesn’t dwell in physical temples (v24); the Giver of life, breath, and all things who is not needy (v25); the Maker of all nations from one blood, who appoints times and determines boundaries (v26); Available: found by those who seek him (v27); Near - not far from every one of us (v27); the One in Whom we live (not merely *exist*), and move (not merely *Shift*), and have our being (not merely *Doing*) - (v28); and our Father (“*For we are also his offspring*”) (v28). So, this God our Father is authoritatively absolute, consistently logical, and morally unchanging (Hebrews 13:8). So, don’t you find it wise to let this God be your absolute authority on all matters in your life, your basis of logical consistency, and your unchanging moral standard? You may say, “I am a good person.” Well, are you born-again? Do you have a living faith in God Almighty?

### Refuse To Be Satisfied With Little!

God has not called us to be good but to be born-again (John 3:3). Good is not good enough; born-again is great. Refuse to be satisfied with small things like being good, when

God has called you to a higher level of greatness through being born-again. I remember a song by the *Hillsong United* titled “Believe” which goes:

I say on Sunday how much I want revival; But then on Monday, I can't even find my Bible  
Where's the power, The power of the cross in my life?  
I'm sick of playing the game of religion; I'm tired of losing my reason for living  
Where's the power, The power of the cross in my life?  
I'm not content just to walk through my life, giving in to the lies, walking in compromises now.  
We cry out as a generation that was lost, but now is found in the power of the cross.

*We believe in You. We believe in the power of Your Word that is true  
We believe in You. So we lay down our cause, That our cross might be found in You*

I'm not satisfied doing it my own way; I'm not satisfied to do church and walk away  
I'm not satisfied there's no love in my life but You  
I'm not satisfied living in yesterday's hour; I'm not satisfied to have the form but not the power  
I'm not satisfied, Lord I am crucified in You

*We believe in You. We believe in the power of Your Word that is true  
We believe in You. So we lay down our cause, That our cross might be found in You*

Yes. Today, REFUSE to be satisfied by just having a religion without a relationship. REFUSE to be satisfied by just knowing about God but not truly knowing Him. REFUSE to be satisfied by just having a good name but not the right character. REFUSE to be satisfied by just doing church but never being church as it was intended by the Creator. REFUSE to be satisfied by just reciting the Apostles Creed as mere routine. REFUSE to be satisfied by just giving God your money but never your heart. REFUSE to be satisfied by just forging a smile but lacking the joy that comes from Him alone. REFUSE to be satisfied by just living in yesterday and forgetting tomorrow, plus the One who holds your future. REFUSE to be satisfied by just having the form and looks but not the power and victory from Him who defeated death. REFUSE to be satisfied by just “Bringing in the sheaves” without bringing in the heart! REFUSE to be satisfied. Today, receive Christ Jesus and grow in the knowledge of God. Then you can PROFESS the Apostles Creed from your heart. Then you can pray to a God you understand, One who promised that when you ask He shall give you (Matthew 7:7-11).

### Follow the Lord of the Whole Bible

In Genesis, He is the Creator God. In Exodus, He is the Redeemer. In Leviticus, He is your sanctification. In Numbers, He is your guide. In Deuteronomy, He is your teacher. In Joshua, He is the mighty conqueror. In Judges, He is He gives victory over enemies. In Ruth, He is He's your kinsman, lover and Redeemer. In First Samuel, He is the root of Jesse. In Second Samuel, He is the Son of David. In First and Second Kings, He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In First and Second Chronicles, He is your intercessor and High Priest. In Ezra, He is your temple, your house of worship, your true cathedral! In Nehemiah, He is your mighty wall, protecting you from your enemies. In Esther, He stands

in the gap to deliver you from your enemies. In Job, He is the arbitrator who not only understands your struggles, but has the power to do something about them. In Psalms, He is your song—and your reason to sing. In Proverbs, He is your wisdom, helping you make sense of life and live it successfully. In Ecclesiastes, He is your purpose, delivering you from vanity for vanity. In Song of Songs, He is your lover, your Rose of Sharon. In Isaiah, He is the mighty counsellor, the prince of peace, the everlasting father, and more. He is everything you need. In Jeremiah, He is your balm of Gilead, the soothing salve for your sin-sick soul. In Lamentations, He is the ever-faithful one upon whom you can depend. In Ezekiel, He is your wheel in the middle of a wheel – the one who assures that dry, dead bones will come alive again. In Daniel, He is the ancient of days, the ever-lasting God who never runs out of time. In Hosea, He is your faithful lover, always beckoning you to come back, even when you have abandoned Him. In Joel, He is your refuge, keeping you safe in times of trouble. In Amos, He is the husbandman, the one you can depend on to stay by your side. In Obadiah, He is the Lord of the Kingdom. In Jonah, He is your salvation, bringing you back within His will. In Micah, He is the judge of the nations. In Nahum, He is the jealous God. In Habakkuk, He is the Holy One. In Zephaniah, He is the witness. In Haggai, He overthrows the enemies. In Zechariah, He is the Lord of Hosts. And in Malachi, He is the messenger of the covenant.

In Matthew, He is king of the Jews. In Mark, He is the servant. In Luke, He is the Son of Man, feeling what you feel. In John, He is the Son of God. In Acts, He is the Saviour of the world. In Romans, He is the righteousness. In First Corinthians, He is the rock that followed Israel. In Second Corinthians, He is the triumphant one, giving victory. In Galatians, He is your liberty; He sets you free. In Ephesians, He is the Head of the Church. In Philippians, He is your joy. In Colossians, He is your completeness. In First Thessalonians, He is your hope. In Second Thessalonians, He is your glory. In First Timothy, He is your faith. In Second Timothy, He is your stability. In Titus, He is your reason for serving. In Philemon, He is your benefactor / patron. In Hebrews, He is your perfection. In James, He is the power behind your faith. In First Peter, He is your example. In Second Peter, He is your purity. In First John, He is your life. In Second John, He is your pattern / model. In Third John, He is your motivation. In Jude, He is the foundation of your faith. And in Revelations, He is your coming King, the King of kings and the Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

Here is a Question for you today:

Are you washed in the blood?  
 In that soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?  
 Are your garments spotless, are they white as snow?  
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

God bless you!