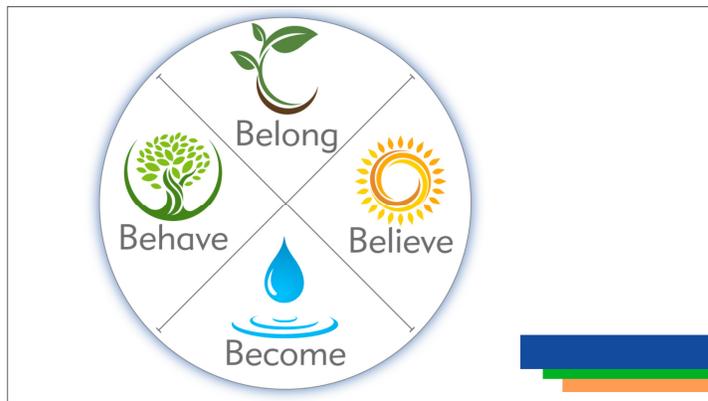


Series: LiveHope
Week 2--Believe



What I believe about Christ shapes who I become as a Christian.

'As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was going by. So he began shouting, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" "Be quiet!" the people in front yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. As the man came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord," he said, "I want to see!" And Jesus said, "All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God, too.' Luke 18:35-43

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?

prevenient grace = grace that comes before

"Jesus' audience understood these healings not only as a matter of health, but also of the individual being brought from outside society to inside, from unclean to clean, from being banned from Temple worship to being qualified to enter God's holy courts. ...This shocked some leaders...that he had the audacity to say the unclean were clean, that sinners could be God's holy people" (Joseph Coleson, Be Holy).

What I believe about Christ shapes who I become as a Christian.

Justification = made right with God

For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. *We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.* And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. *People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.* Romans 3:20-25

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. Romans 5:1-2