



# NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“If people cannot see that you belong to Jesus, then you better improve your faith.”

## Belonger

*“I may never march in the infantry. Ride in the cavalry. Shoot the artillery. I may never flyover the enemy. But I'm in the Lord's army! Yes Sir!”*

*When my father graduated from high school, the Korean War was starting. He believed that he could help with the efforts. My father assured his parents to have faith that he would return safely and as a better man. So, he enlisted in the Navy and was on a battleship. For the next four years, Uncle Sam taught him, fed him, housed him, clothed him and told him what to do. He belonged to them 24/7. Even on leave, he still belonged to the Navy. Now, 70 years later, you can tell that he was proud to belong by the stories he tells and the items he shows. Last Christmas, I surprised him with a book about the ship with his name listed.*

*I remember being in Baltimore about 18 years ago. There were Believe billboards up everywhere. One was stretched against the tallest building. I thought there was a religious revival going on, but it was to boost community pride. Even their major league ball team was on a losing streak. People used their faith by going to the game. By the seventh inning, things were so bad that only those who belonged to the team stayed.*

*Gallup.com took a poll of 35 million people in 2019. They found that 51% of the people polled were a member of a church or synagogue but only 23% attended their place of worship every week. Surprising that 87% believe in God but only 64% are convinced that God exists. Only 37% claim they are born again or an evangelical Christians.<sup>1</sup>*

*Most believe in some kind of god. Throughout all the ages and in every culture, there has been belief in a supernature power. In James 2:19 it states: “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” How they act on that belief is called faith. Many have a head knowledge but not a heart action. “But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Heb 11:6*

*“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matt 7:2,23 These people believed, had faith and did good works. What was the problem? They had religion but not a relationship. They did not belong to God. To one of the most faithful religious leaders of that time, “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3*

*A born-again person is someone who has repented of their sins Rom 3:23 and turned to Christ (who paid the penalty for their sins Rom 5:8) for their salvation Rom 6:23, and as a result has become part of God's family forever John 3:16. They belong because they are a new creation II Cor 5:17. Through the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit, their mind, emotions and will are transformed Rom 12:1,2. They have direct access to God the Father Heb 4:16 who will take care of their every need. Phil 4:19 Their life is filled love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Gal 5:22-23 They are not perfect, nor sinless, nor always Christ like, but you should be able to tell they are a Christian.*

*Are you just a believer, a one-hour a week faith worshiper, or are you a 24/7 born-again believer?*



Baltimore 2002 billboard

Charles L Stambaugh

Mount Wolf PA

*Faith is not believing God can.*

*Faith is knowing that God will.*



<sup>1</sup>[news.gallup.com/poll/1690/Religion.aspx](https://news.gallup.com/poll/1690/Religion.aspx)

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