



I Believe

The Apostle's Creed reminds us that truth comes from God, and that is where we must start in our spiritual journey.



"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."

— 2 Timothy 4:3-4

The time was just after World War II. Communism had descended like a dark shadow over most of Eastern Europe. A young Romanian student named Joseph Tson was about to discover who had the real power—the iron-fisted communist dictators or the gentle-hearted men and women of God.

One day in class, the subject of religion came up. Joseph raised his hand and asked his professor whether he believed the Bible.

The professor reacted angrily. "We no longer need the old fables," he shot back at the young man. "You just watch. Within a generation, the church will die out."

Joseph realized the challenge and the choice. The spiritual battle in his country was between the church and communism—and he must choose which side he was on. Then and there, Joseph resolved that he would be on God's side. Tson would later be persecuted for his faith in a Communist prison. After his exile from Romania, Tson spent several years ministering in the United States before returning to his newly liberated homeland in 1991.

Years earlier, another Joseph resolved to believe in Karl Marx's communism. After Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924) died, Joseph Stalin outmaneuvered his rivals for control of the party. Once in power, he collectivized farming and had potential enemies executed or sent to forced labor camps. He ruled by terror, and millions of his own citizens died during his brutal reign.

Sometimes we ask, "Does it really matter what I believe as long as I believe in something?"

It matters greatly. What you believe determines the kind of person you will be. What you believe determines how you feel emotionally. It determines your attitude toward life and how you live your life.

The Bible emphasizes the fact that it is vital what one believes. Jesus said, "... for unless you believe that I am who I say I am, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24 NLT). Christians don't just believe ideas—we believe in Someone.

While it wasn't written by the apostles themselves, the basic form of the Apostles' Creed can be traced back to the earliest centuries of the Christian faith. It begins with "I believe".

It served three basic purposes for the early Christians:

1. *To catechize – to teach new believers what the Church stood for.*
2. *To defend – to guard the faith against heresies and false doctrines.*
3. *To evangelize – to tell the world the core of what the Church believed.*

The word "creed" comes from the Latin word *credo*, which means "I believe."

Does it matter what we believe?

What does it mean to say, "I believe?"

(note Mark 8:29, Philippians 2:11)

How does what we believe affect the way we live?

Ask yourself, "If all hope was lost, what would I truly believe?"

Read II Timothy 1:12



Give us clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for—because unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything."

Peter Marshall,
US Senate Chaplain 1947