



Believing Like Jesus - Cultivating a Life Beyond Religion

by John Himmelberger

Intro

Jesus didn't come to build a religion, He came to reveal the Father and invite us into a new way of being. This teaching calls us to leave behind performative faith and embrace a lifestyle that believes like Jesus: relational, rooted in love, grounded in truth, and lived with integrity. It's not about checking boxes or looking the part, it's about becoming the kind of person who carries Heaven into every conversation, decision, and act of kindness. It's time to stop performing and start transforming.

My Intention and Assumptions

I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be 'salt' and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

About the Author

John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

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Intro:

Jesus didn't come to start a religion. He came to reveal the Father—and invite us into that same relationship. His life wasn't driven by performance, pressure, or pretense. It was rooted in love, authenticity, and Kingdom power. He didn't just believe in the Father—He *believed like* the Father. That's our invitation too: not just to follow a set of rules, but to believe like Jesus, live like Jesus, and walk in the fullness of what He modeled.

This isn't about escaping church—it's about escaping *lifeless faith*. The goal isn't religion—it's transformation. And that begins with alignment.

1. Relationship Over Ritual

Jesus withdrew often—not to perform, but to connect. (Luke 5:16)

He didn't attend prayer meetings for appearances. He prioritized intimacy. He listened. He leaned in. Everything He did flowed from relationship. That's the invitation: stop performing faith. Start pursuing presence.

Truth to Declare:

- My faith is not a checklist—it's a conversation.
 - I'm not striving to impress God—I'm staying close to Him.
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2. Love and Compassion Are the Core

Love isn't just a value—it's the whole point. Jesus said everything hangs on loving God and loving people (Matthew 22:37–40).

Without love, we're just noise. But love turns truth into healing and kindness into transformation. If you're walking with Jesus, you're walking in love.

Kingdom Key:

The most spiritual thing you can do today might be how you treat the person in front of you.

3. Faith Looks Like Something

Jesus didn't hide His faith. He *embodied* it—healing the broken, restoring the outcast, feeding the hungry.

Faith isn't a feeling—it's a movement. It shows up in your hands, your feet, and your calendar. Don't just believe—*build*.

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Truth to Declare:

- My faith is visible.
 - My belief moves me toward others.
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4. Integrity Over Image

Jesus confronted fake righteousness head-on (Matthew 23:27–28). He wasn't interested in appearances—He wanted reality.

Authenticity is what gives faith weight. You don't need to have it all together—you just need to be real. That's where God meets you.

Kingdom Key:

True holiness is honest. No mask, no performance—just a heart that's surrendered.

5. A Lifestyle of Grace and Forgiveness

Jesus didn't just talk about grace—He lived it. He forgave the unforgivable and welcomed the unworthy.

Forgiveness isn't weakness—it's warfare. It breaks chains, heals hearts, and silences shame. You can't carry both grace and grudges.

Truth to Declare:

- I'm forgiven, so I forgive.
 - I don't hold what Jesus already released.
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6. The Heart is What Matters

Jesus made it clear: what flows out of your life starts in your heart (Mark 7:20–23). You can behave well and still believe wrong.

Religion polishes behavior. Relationship purifies belief. God doesn't want your perfection—He wants your heart.

Kingdom Key:

Transformation always starts beneath the surface.

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7. We Were Never Meant to Walk Alone

Jesus didn't disciple crowds—He disciplined community. He gathered friends, broke bread, and shared life.

Acts 2 shows the result: a community marked by joy, generosity, and power. If you want sustainable faith, surround yourself with people headed in the same direction.

Truth to Declare:

- I grow best with others.
 - I need community, not just content.
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8. Growth is the Goal

Luke 2:52 says Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and favor. If He needed growth, so do we. Not just spiritual, but holistic.

This is a life of becoming. Keep leaning in. Keep stretching. Keep saying yes.

Kingdom Key:

Growth doesn't always look flashy. But it always looks like obedience.

Practical Activation: Walking This Out

1. Create space for real connection.

Start each day with intentional time in prayer and the Word—not out of duty, but delight.

2. Let love lead.

Be the first to forgive. The first to serve. The first to notice.

3. Find your tribe.

Join a small group or create one. Build honest, Kingdom-centered friendships.

4. Reflect often.

Ask God to search your heart. Invite Him to reshape your motives.

Closing Declaration:

Lord, I don't want to settle for religion when You've called me into relationship. Teach me to believe like Jesus—to love deeply, walk humbly, and live honestly. I say yes to transformation over tradition. Let my life be the proof of Your goodness, one surrendered step at a time.