



**BELIEF IN GOD**

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# BELIEF/TRUST IN GOD

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*This session gives us some clue into how people belief in God and where that comes from.*

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## WHAT IS BELIEF? WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

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Faith in God is the foundation of Judaism... Faith is not just the utterance of words, however, but a firm belief and conviction with one's mind and heart. It is also a commitment to be acted upon, with an earnest adherence to the course prescribed by God. It is for this reason that belief alone without obedience to God is an absurdity... (Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan, "Handbook of Jewish Thought")

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## FORMS OF BELIEF

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### TRADITION

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Deuteronomy 32:7 - Parshat Ha'azinu	דברים פרק לב:ז פרשת האזינו
Ask your father and he will tell you, your grandfather and he will inform you"	זְכֹר יְמוֹת עוֹלָם בֵּינוּ שָׁנוֹת דֶּרֶךְ שָׂאֵל אָבִיךָ וַיְגַדֶּךָ זְקֵנֶיךָ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָךְ:



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- ❖ HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT GAINING FAITH FROM OTHERS?
  - ❖ IS THE BELIEF OF ANOTHER GOING TO HELP YOU?
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### KNOWLEDGE

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Psalms 100:3	תהלים ק:ג
Know that God is the Lord, He made us and we are His	דַּעוּ כִּי־יְהוָה הוּא אֱלֹהִים הוּא־עָשָׂנוּ וְלֹא־אֲנַחְנוּ עָמֹ וְצֹאן מִרְעִיתוֹ:



- ❖ HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT GATHERING KNOWLEDGE THAT GOD EXISTS?
- ❖ IS IT POSSIBLE TO PROVE THAT THERE IS A G-D?

### COMBINATION

*It can be explained that both are needed in order to truly grasp our relationship with God.*

<b>Isaiah 40:21</b>	<b>ישעיהו מ:כא</b>
Do you not know? Have you not heard? Was it not <b>told to you</b> from the beginning? Do you not <b>understand</b> how the earth was founded?	הֲלוֹא תִדְעוּ הֲלוֹא תִשְׁמְעוּ הֲלוֹא הִגַּד מֵרֵאשִׁית לְכֶם הָאֵלֹהִים הַבְּיָיִתִּים מוֹסְדוֹת הָאָרֶץ:

*We can see from this verse that there is a basis for tradition combined with knowledge.*

### WHY BOTH?

<b>Ramchal, Derech Hashem</b>	
Every Jew must believe and know that there is a first existence, primal and eternal, which brought all things into existence and continues to sustain them. This is God.	



There is a value in having belief both from knowledge and tradition. We have the ability to rely on others belief to help strengthen our own belief. Even when we are in doubt we can ask of others to share their faith and stability. However we can't rely on this alone. We need to gather our own faith and only through knowledge is this possible.

<b>Proverbs 14:15</b>	<b>משלי יד:טו</b>
The fool believes everything, but the prudent person will follow the right path	פְּתִי יֵאָמֵר לְכָל־דְּבַר וְעָרוֹם בֵּין לְאִשְׁרוֹ :

*We must not be the fool but rather gain our own way to our own path of faith.*

- ❖ WHO HAS HELPED YOU GATHER STRENGTH THROUGH THEIR BELIEF?
- ❖ WHAT CAN YOU PASS ON TO HELP OTHERS IN THEIR FAITH?