

# Is Seeing Really Believing?

## “Seeing is Believing”

- Proverb was first used back in 1639 during the Age of Enlightenment and emphasized reason and analysis as a foundation to judge and explain everything.
- The disciple Thomas spoke almost the same thing 1600 years before after the resurrection of Jesus.
  - ◆ *Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe - Jn. 20:25*
- Only physical evidence will convince me. I cannot believe in something that I cannot see - taste - touch.

## Two World Views

- Jesus was concerned about two world views that were influencing what people thought and the way they responded - Mk. 8:17
  - ◆ Leaven of the Pharisees - religious thinking
  - ◆ Leaven of Herod - political / material thinking
- Jesus was concerned that these two world views were keeping His disciples from entering into the supernatural - miraculous Kingdom of Heaven. Rather they were focused on the natural world and earthly things and couldn't see the possibilities that were available to those who would believe.
- The leaven of this world will tell us that something is impossible or that it can not be done. It will try to prove that miracles aren't for today or that miracles just do not happen because there is a rational explanation for everything.

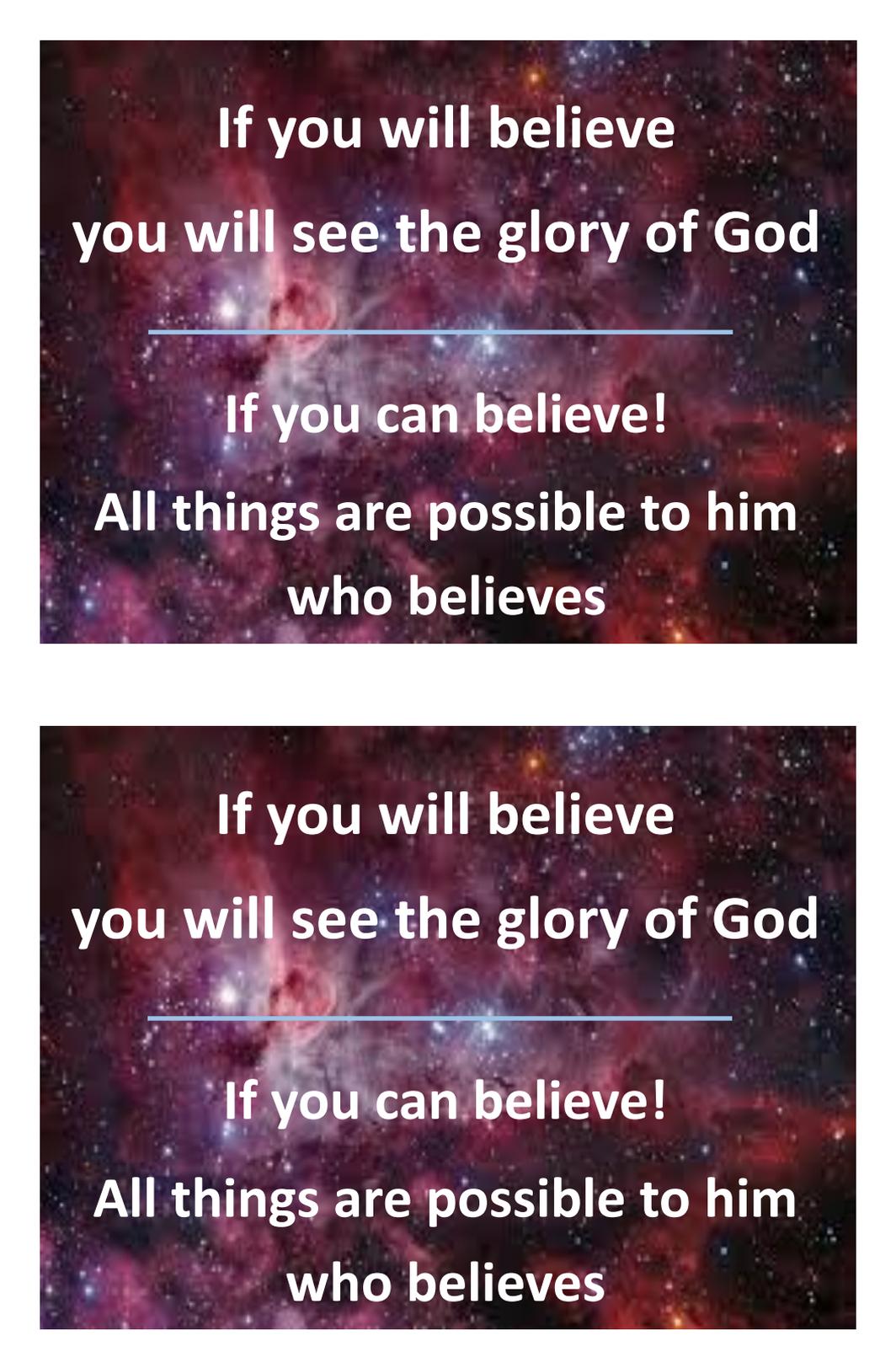
## What is the Truth?

- The secular adage that says, "Seeing is believing", is not true because a person can see and not believe. The Jews always asked for a sign and yet they wouldn't believe.
- Jesus gave us the truth when He said - *"Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" - Jn. 11:40*
- Why did Jesus reverse the order and tell us to believe and then we would see? The answer is found in a statement by the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian church.
  - ◆ *The unbeliever does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. And he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. - I Cor. 2:14*
- To believe in secular or worldly terms means:

- ◆ To accept something as true, genuine or real
- ◆ To have a firm conviction in something
- ◆ To hold an opinion in one's mind or in one's thoughts
- To believe in Biblical terms means:
  - ◆ More than mental assent but to rely upon a promise of God and then act accordingly.
  - ◆ Our heart receives a revelation which illuminates our mind. In that revelation comes wisdom with an intellectual consent of our mind AND a corresponding act of our will - II Cor. 4:13
  - ◆ Biblical belief leads to salvation because the belief that takes place begins in a Christian's heart and not in their mind. The natural mind of man cannot comprehend the spiritual things of God.
  - ◆ Biblical belief happens when our heart - our spirit - receives revelation from the Holy Spirit and that revelation allows us to know and believe the truth. When our heart believes, our normal response is to confess that belief with our mouth.
  - ◆ When we do that, Romans 10:9-10 says, we profess our faith and are saved. The word *save (sozo)* refers to healing, deliverance, protection and eternal life (salvation).

**Why can a Christian, who has the Holy Spirit, and a Non-Christian, who doesn't have the Holy Spirit, both see a miracle and yet neither will believe? Paul gives us an answer:**

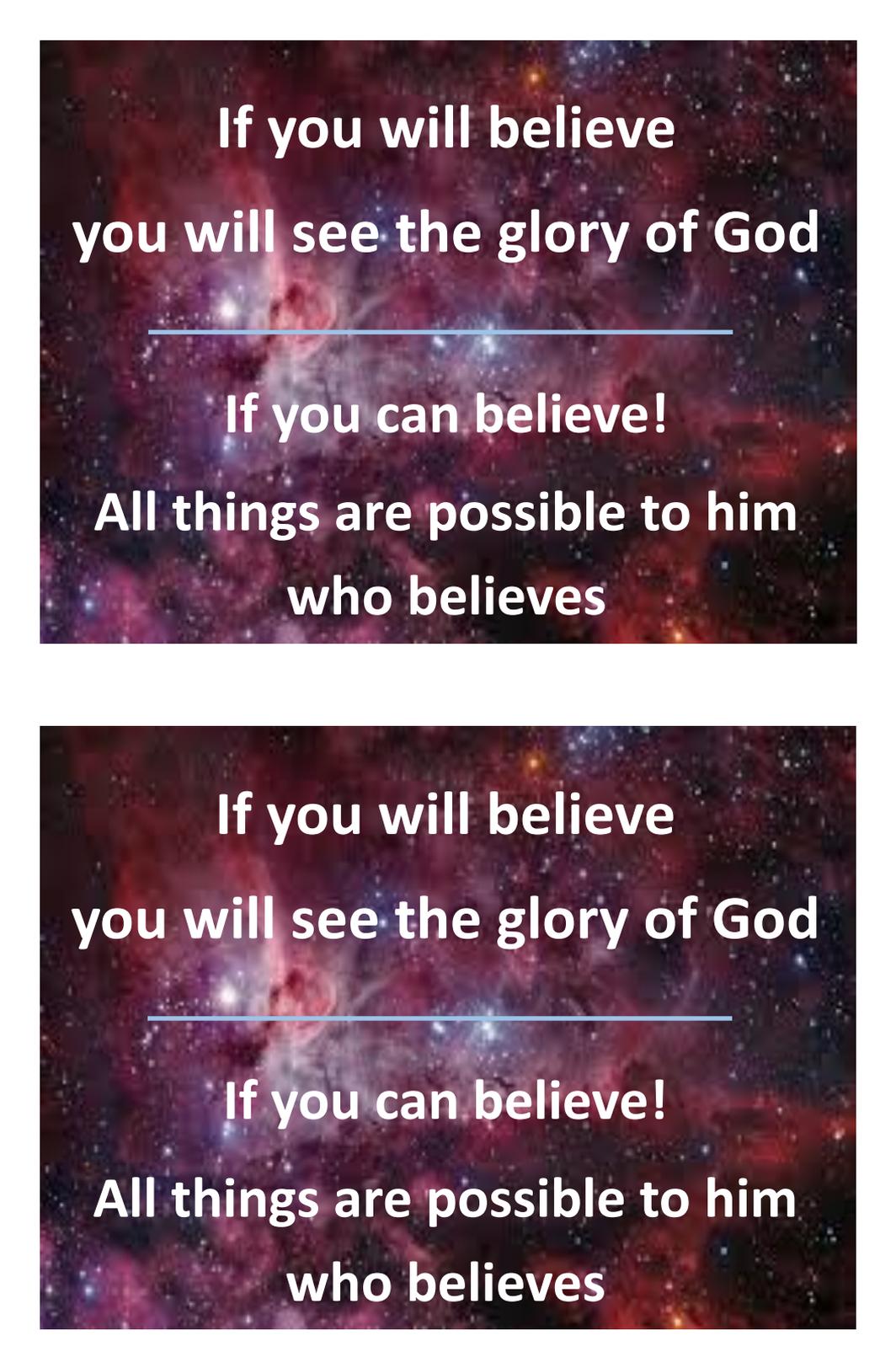
- ◆ <sup>12</sup> *Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.*
- <sup>13</sup> *And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.* <sup>14</sup> *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (foolishness) to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned - II Cor. 2:12-14.*
- ◆ A carnal Christian has the Spirit of God but has chosen not to be obedient to God's commands or to feed their spirit with the true words of life. A carnal Christian is spiritually dead and only receives with his natural mind and not his spirit so he does not believe and can only ask for more proof through signs, miracles or wonders. These can be seen but never fully comprehended because they must be spiritually discerned and not structured logically so that they will fit into established patterns of fact. True beliefs must come from our spirit and not from the thoughts of our natural mind because only our spirits are aware of the true reality of our world - both visible and invisible.



**If you will believe  
you will see the glory of God**

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**If you can believe!  
All things are possible to him  
who believes**



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