



GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

AUGUST 2026 MESSAGE
SK GEORGE R. SAUNDERS REGC

Sir Knights, this month, I would like to shift gears a little and give you something to think about while you're cutting grass or relaxing on the beach. What is belief and is it important to us?

In our complex world, people search for meaning, stability and coherence. Our mind must accept that something is true; spiritually, culturally and psychologically, to achieve what we are searching for. This is the foundation of the idea that supports the layers above.

Therefore, belief can be described as a mental commitment to an idea or proposition. Representationalism describes a belief as a stored mental representation you use in reasoning. Dispensationalism says belief is exhibited through behaviors and tendencies. For example:

- If you say "I believe integrity matters," that belief shapes how you act.
- If you say "I believe the pot is hot," that belief shapes how you avoid touching it.

Not just an idea, a belief is the rudder that steers our actions.

The reasons we believe are intermingled. Psychologically, beliefs help us make sense of the world around us by helping us cope and providing emotional comfort. It is affected by coping mechanisms, biases and basic needs. Culturally, we inherit beliefs from traditions of our families and communities. Spiritually, belief springs from our search for morality, dominance and the meaning of life. Belief helps us identify ourselves and to unite with groups, forming communities. Personal experience, suffering, moments of awe, intuition, also shape our beliefs. In short, belief is a cultural inheritance, psychological anchor and spiritual compass, helping us deal with our external and internal world.

Belief is the bedrock of the Masonic fraternity. When we petitioned a Blue Lodge, did we not assert a belief in a Supreme Being? Templary expands this belief to require a belief in the Christian religion and it's defense.

The basic beliefs of Christianity include: the belief in one God, who created heaven and earth; the Trinity, one God in three persons, Father Son and Holy Ghost; Jesus is our Savior; humans are sinners and redemption is a gift of God's grace through Jesus. Additionally, we, as Christians believe in: the Virgin Birth and that Jesus lived a sinless life; the resurrection of Jesus; the Ascension and ongoing intercession for believers and that Jesus will return to create god's Kingdom in fullness. These basic beliefs are summarized in the Apostles' Creed.

As Knights Templar, this is what we have affirmed to believe and vowed to protect. We exemplify our beliefs by our actions. We cannot just "talk the talk", we must also "walk the walk" on a daily basis. Our beliefs intact, we must govern ourselves accordingly.



Yours in Christ

George R. Saunders

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Right Eminent Grand Commander

