

17

BELIEVING

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Study 17. Believing.

Question #2 JD had asked: Why does the bible say in **Mark 16:16** that if we do not believe and are baptized, we will not be saved?

Pastor X's answer was that, only faith, and not baptism, is essential to salvation, just as the omission of baptism from the last clause shows! If baptism was essential to salvation, then the verse would have said "but whoever does not believe **and is not baptized** will be condemned".

First, we can see that **Mark** uses the word "believes". And Pastor X answered with the word "faith. Pastor X changed the word from believing to faith.

Believing and Faith are two different things!

Belief and faith are closely interrelated but not the same.

be·lieve.

1. to accept (something) as true; feel sure of the truth of.

"The superintendent believed Lancaster's story."

2. to hold (something) as an opinion; think or suppose.

"I believe we've already met."

So, our beliefs are things that we are thoroughly convinced of. Usually (but not always) they are ideas, concepts that we gather through acquiring information and experience. Because of that, our beliefs can change over time as we gain more knowledge and experience more things throughout our lives.

Faith.

1. the complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

2. the strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof.

"bereaved people who have shown supreme faith."

Faith includes our beliefs, but it is bigger than that. Faith requires action. If it doesn't move us to do something, say something or to take some kind of action – it's not really faith at all.

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What's the Difference?

Belief and faith are often used interchangeably, but they have distinct differences. Belief refers to accepting something as true or real based on evidence, reasoning, or personal experiences. It is grounded in logical thinking and can be subject to change if new evidence emerges. On the other hand, faith goes beyond evidence and reasoning. It involves a deep trust or confidence in something or someone, often without tangible proof. Faith is more subjective and relies on personal conviction, intuition, or religious teachings. While belief is based on what we know, faith is often associated with what we cannot fully comprehend or explain.

For example: I believe you are the best heart surgeon in the world, but I do not have faith that you can fix my heart.

Or I believe you are the worst heart surgeon in the world, but I have faith that you can fix my heart.

Try and have any Pastor that teaches that “Faith alone” is all we need, explain this without bringing more confusion!

James 2:14 (KJV) What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

- **can faith save him?**

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

- **Faith alone brings death!**

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. **20** But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

- **Faith without works is dead!**

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22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

But let's move on and let's just say that Pastor X, "was confused" and meant to use the word believing and not the word faith.

Mark 16:16 (KJV) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.

The real reason the word "**baptism**" was excluded from the last clause, was because there was no real need to repeat that word, mainly for the obvious reason that, if a person does not get to the point of believing, he will never get to the point of getting baptized!

In other words: whether baptism is only a commandment or essential to salvation will never matter to someone who does not believe!

Keep this thought in mind! What if, *Believing is the first thing, and baptism is the last thing we do in order to receive remission for our past sins?*

Read and answer the following examples on which we are changing the word baptism for another word that is either a commandment or essential for salvation!

For example:

1. Would you agree that repentance is a commandment! **Acts 17:30.**

YES or NO.

a. Will a person that does not believe follow God's commandment to truly repent? YES or NO.

- i. This is how the verse will read once we replace the word baptism with repentance. *He that believeth and **REPENTS** shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
- ii. Would you agree that taking out the word repent in the last clause does not mean that repentance is not essential to salvation or the least a commandment? YES or NO.
- iii. Would you agree that the last clause did not need to use the word **repent** again because if the person never got to believe in

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the first place, they would not get to the point of repentance.
YES or NO.

2. Would you agree that confessing Christ as Lord and Savior is a commandment! **Romans 10:9.**

YES or NO.

- a. Will a person that does not believe follow God's commandment to truly confess Christ as Lord and Savior? **YES or NO.**
 - i. This is how the verse will read once we replace the word baptism with confessing Christ as Lord and Savior. *He that believeth and CONFESSES CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
 - ii. Would you agree that taking out **confessing Christ as Lord and Savior** in the last clause does not mean that **confessing Christ as Lord and Savior** is not essential to salvation or the least a commandment? **YES or NO.**
 - iii. Would you agree that the last clause did not need to use the words **confessing Christ as Lord and Savior** again because if the person never got to believe in the first place, they would not get to the point of confessing Christ as Lord and Savior. **YES or NO.**

3. Would you agree that enduring to the end in faith is a commandment! **Matt 10:22, Matt 24:13, Mark 13:13.**

YES or NO.

- a. Will a person that does not believe follow God's commandment to truly endure to the end in faith? **YES or NO.**
 - i. This is how the verse will read once we replace the word baptism with enduring to the end in faith. *He that believeth and ENDURES TO THE END IN FAITH shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
 - ii. Would you agree that **taking out enduring to the end in faith** in the last clause does not mean that **Enduring to the end in faith** is not essential to salvation or the least a commandment? **YES or NO.**

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- iii. Would you agree that the last clause did not need to use the words **endure to the end in faith** again because if the person never got to believe in the first place, they would not get to the point of enduring to the end in faith. **YES** or **NO**.

Before we proceed, would you also agree that the of statement Pastor X gave to JD's question was a false statement? YES, or No?

*Recap of his answer. "Only faith, and not baptism, is essential to salvation, just as the omission of baptism from the last clause shows! If baptism was essential to salvation, then the verse would have said "but whoever does not believe **and is not baptized** will be condemned".*

Question #3 JD had asked: Why does the bible say in **1 Peter 3:21** that baptism also saves us, after you told me that baptism does not save anyone?

Pastor X's answer was:

1. God has no requirements for salvation!
2. Believing alone saves us!
3. We are saved the moment we believe in our heart! In other words, believing alone saves us!

Pastor X also quoted the following scripture!

John 3:15-16 (KJV) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life. **16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Let's go ahead and break down Pastor X quoted answer and see if by any chance there is truly no requirements for salvation and are saved the moment we believe, or if by any chance there is a by believing "ALONE" we are saved?

John 3:15-16 (KJV) That **whosoever believeth in him should not perish** but have eternal life. **16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

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So far it seems that the only thing that we can confirm with the verse provided by Pastor X, is that the gospel states that whosoever believes “should” be saved.

“Should be” is not at all the same as “will be”. Should is a “possible” thing, that may or may not happen in the future.

When it comes to God and His promises, when God says something “will” happen, it will happen no matter what.

In other words, if we take this verse and convert it into what Pastor X is trying to insinuate, then the verse will read as follow: **That whosoever believeth in him will not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him will not perish, but have everlasting life.**

So, if the Pastor was speaking truth, then it would mean that once you believe, it would not matter if any person would stop repenting and start purposely breaking all of the ten commandments, because since God already said **That whosoever believeth in him will not perish but have eternal life**, then God has no other option but to keep His promise, and give them eternal life or else He would become a liar. We know that God Can NOT lie. **Titus 1:2** and **Hebrews 6:18**.

Would it not be in error for “anyone” including Pastor X to say that the gospel tells us in **John 3:15-16** that “believing alone saves us”?

YES, or NO?

As a matter of fact, you will NEVER find the words, “believing” and “alone” together!

One of the questions that should arise would be the following. If God is telling us that a person SHOULD have eternal life, then, what do I need to do to change that SHOULD to WILL have eternal life?

What would we be missing apart from believing?

What about the following verse:

Romans 10:9 (KJV) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Christ, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

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Here we can observe that believing is also attached to salvation, but there is no believing alone stated as the means of salvation. Instead, there is confession thrown together as if confession and believing were both part of salvation!

Since according to Pastor X, God has no requirements for salvation other than believing, then does it mean that if we do not confess Christ as Lord and Savior we will still be saved? YES, or **NO**?

Just to make a fast point, I will ask the following!

If God has no requirements for salvation other than believing, then, does it mean that if we do not repent, confess Christ as Lord and Savior, and endure to the end, we will still be saved?

YES or **NO**.

Was the Pastor teaching truth when he states that God has no requirements for salvation? YES, or **NO**.

Was the Pastor teaching truth when he stated that believing alone saves us”? YES or **NO**.

A question to see if we can move on: Does believing alone by itself save anyone? YES, or **NO**?

Now, we must find out if Pastor X was telling the truth or was also lying about baptism not being essential to salvation!

Like the good Bereans, that we ought to be, let's read out the rest of the scripture verses that have believing and salvation in the same paragraph.

But to make this study shorter, we will only be using verses on scripture that brings something important or different than what “Pastor X” teaches.

Corrupted Seed!?

Common salvation plan!?

Are we saved as soon as you believe? YES, or NO?

Do we receive the indwelling of Holy Ghost as soon as you believe and it stays indwelling until our bodily death? YES, or NO?

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When it comes to verses that contradict that a person is saved as soon as they believe, this one bites the cake!

Romans 13:11 (KJV) And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now, is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

This scripture is very direct in telling us that our salvation is nearer than when we believed. **Nearer and not saved as soon as we believe!** This scripture does not contradict **John 3:15-16**, it complements and backs it up.

All this falls into place because after believing we are sealed with a promise, not salvation.

Eph 1:13 (KJV) In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Just like **exodus 28:3** where the Spirit of wisdom brings wisdom and not salvation.

Or in **Numbers 5:14** where the spirit of jealousy brings jealousy and not salvation.

Or **Hosea 4:12** where the spirit of whoredoms caused whoring and did not cause salvation.

Or in **John 14:17** where the Spirit of truth brought truth and not salvation.

Or 1 **Corinthians 4:21** where the Spirit of meekness brought meekness and not salvation,

It would be the exact same for the Holy Spirit of promise, He brings a Holy promise and not salvation.

If we continue reading Ephesians, we will later see that it closes by telling us that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of salvation!

Ephesians 4:30 (KJV) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Redemption= re·demp·tion, noun

1. the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.

In other words, **Sealed until the day of salvation!**

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So far, we can clearly see that **Romans 13:11** completely contradicts what “Pastor” says about, believing alone is all that God requires for salvation! And **Ephesians 1:13, 4:30**. just completely proves Pastor X’s dangerous teaching about believing alone saves us!

More on the same subject:

God the Father has sealed (with the promise), those who are Laboring (working) toward everlasting life!

John 6:27 (KJV) Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Apart from that, there are no scriptures that state directly or indirectly that anyone received salvation by believing alone.

UNLESS the Son of God Himself saved them by showing up physically/Spiritually to them directly and told them they were saved!

If you thought about or mentioned the thief on the cross, then please wait to read our **study on baptism**. Just in case you have not realized, the thief on the cross not only believed, but he also repented!

Most of the scriptures say something like “by believing you may or might be saved, or by believing you might become something”.

John 20:31 (KJV) But these are written, that ye might believe that Christ is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing **ye might have** life through his name.

Most Pastors try to teach that God has no requirements for salvation, therefore there is nothing we need to do to earn it. But is this Godly truth or just Satan’s excuse not to be obedient to God?

As far as I know, humanity loves free stuff, and most free stuff may seem to mean that there are no requirements to attain whatever it is that is free.

But if we stick to requirements concerning salvation, is it true that God has none?

Well..... would it not be believing a “requirement”?

If we do not believe, then there is no chance to salvation! Therefore, it is a requirement. **YES**, or **NO**?

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What about repentance? Would repentance not be another requirement? **YES**, or **NO**?

Can we at this place of study and knowledge say that God has requirements for salvation? **YES**, or **NO**?

Can we also say now in all truth that a person gets closer to salvation by believing and upon truly believing they only receive the promise of salvation and **NOT** salvation itself. **YES**, or **NO**?

Can we also say that a person **SHOULD** receive that salvation as long as they have fulfilled Gods requires for that salvation. Requirements like believing, Repenting, Confessing with thy mouth Lord Christ, and maybe other requirements? **YES**, or **NO**?

Continuing and going deeper into the scriptures. Because there is always more to it.

To recap, one of the most used scriptures in the world to try and state that believing alone is what saves a person is **John 3:16 (KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him **should** not perish, but have everlasting life.**

What about reading the verse prior to it and the one after it?

Something we should all do, to see and understand more of what is being said! **John 3:15-17 (KJV) That whosoever believeth in him **should** not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him **should** not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him **might** be saved.**

You can still even get the same message from the New International Version Bible.

John 3:15-17 (NIV) that everyone who believes **may have eternal life in him. 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him **shall** not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send**

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his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

How about the following verses?

What can we say about them? let's talk about it!

John 1:12 (KJV) But as many as received him, to them gave He power **to become** the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Acts 16:31 (KJV) And they said, believe on the Lord Christ, and thou **shalt** be saved, and thy house.

Romans 10:9 (KJV) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Christ, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou **shalt** be saved.

John 6:40 (KJV) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, **may** have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

ETC. ETC. ETC.

False Bibles, teachers and Pastors indirectly teach that the definition of shall or shalt are = is, will or have!

Saying that the scriptures for example state, **John 11:26** and whoever lives by believing in me **will** never die. Do you believe this?"

Or Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Christ is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you **will** be saved.

Or Acts 16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Christ, and you **will** be saved—you and your household."

The definition of the word "will" is expressing inevitable events.

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If the above verses were biblically true and translated correctly, then there would be a big contradiction in God's word, and they would imply that God is a liar!

If God truly stated that one WILL be saved or IS saved as soon as they believed, then that person would receive salvation and enter the kingdom of heaven NO MATTER WHAT happens afterwards, whether they stop believing or turn to Satan!

God's word is truth, and He cannot lie!

But this is a lie that Satan has used in many, many believers of Christ by those so called "pastors".

According to the gospel, not everyone that believed was saved! Like Judas Iscariot and the Disciples Demas, Crecent and Titus (**2 Tim 4:10**).

And not everyone that did not believe was dammed!

The real question that needs to be asked is:

WHAT DOES YOUR BIBLE SAY?

What have you been learning and where have you been learning it from?

Let's finish with this!

The Biblical definition of Shall and Shalt is - **should have** or even **may have**! Shall and Shalt are future tense of something that can happen.... As long as and if you do something about it!

With shall or shalt there is always a possibility of the future changing, whether it is a good change or a bad change!

The KJV has the correct translation and has no contradiction!

So, regarding JD, can we agree that the most we can say at this moment is that by believing JD is not yet saved, but, now closer to his salvation than ever before!

YES, or **NO**?

This also opens more questions, like, why are we closer?

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What are we missing?
Is there something else that God requires of us?

Meanwhile let's search and see if believing has anything attached to it. For example, what is it that we need to believe in order to receive and be sealed with God's promise!

We must believe the Gospel.

Mark 1:15 (KJV) And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

We must believe in the name of the only begotten son of God.

John 3:18 (KJV) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **Also found in, Acts 8:37,**

We must believe that Christ is the Son of God.

Acts 8:37-38 (KJV) And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Christ is the Son of God. **38** And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

We must believe in the Father and the Son.

John 5:24 (KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. **Also found in, John 6:47, John 3:18, Acts 16:31, John 3:15-16, Joh 11:25.**

We must believe God the Father raised Christ from the dead.

Romans 10:9 (KJV) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Christ, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **Also found in, 1 Thes 4:14,**

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Let's stop right here and see what we have learned so far. Check mark what YOU know, now to be truth!

- ☐ We can see that confession is required just like believing is needed!
- ☐ One of God's requirements for salvation is to BELIEVE.
- ☐ Believing has a sub- requirement attached to it, and it's to believe that Christ is the only begotten Son of God.
- ☐ Believing has a 2nd sub- requirement attached to it, and it's that we must believe in the Father and the Son.
- ☐ Believing has a 3rd sub- requirement attached to it, and it's that we must believe God the Father raised Christ from the dead.
- ☐ **We can see that "Pastor" Err by telling John Doe that by believing alone we are saved!**
- ☐ We can also see that baptism seems to be required or at least a commandment just like believing!

Let's now compare it to John Doe and see how his salvation looks!

All we are looking for is to see whether he is going to be short of salvation or not. This is what we have so far for John Doe: add any that we might have missed.

- ✓ He believes Christ is the Son of God.
- ✓ He believes Christ died for all our past sins.
- ✓ He believes Christ resurrected 3 days later.
- ✓ He believes that Christ is sitting on the right-hand side of the Father interceding for us!
- ✓ He confessed Christ as Lord and Savior (Through sinner's prayer).
- ✓ He confessed himself as a sinner (Through sinner's prayer).
- ✓ He repented of his sins. (Let us just say he truly repented when he believed!)
- ✓ He asked for forgiveness (Through sinner's prayer).
- ✓ He called upon the Lord into his life (Through sinner's prayer).
- ✓ He was baptized as a baby, by sprinkle!

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These are the things that are questionable in John Doe's Walk because of what we are learning through the scriptures. You must decide whether he has covered that area or not. Compare to the top list and mark those that has covered!

- ☐ Did JD believe in Christ?
- ☐ Did JD believe that Christ is the "only begotten" Son of God? **John 3:18, Acts 8:37.**
- ☐ Did JD believe in the Son and the Father? **John 5:24, John 6:47.**
- ☐ Did JD believe that God the Father raised Christ from the dead? **Romans 10:9, 1 Thes 4:14.**

Up to this point in the study, can we say that JD receive salvation?

- ☐ **YES, or**
- ☐ **NO?**

This study opens more questions.

-  Is baptism Necessary for salvation?
-  Is repentance the same as a change of mind, or something deeper?
-  If we need to be baptized, does it have to be with water?
-  Does Baptism have a purpose and a meaning or is it just an outward expression of faith?
-  Do we have to be baptized in the correct way?

These are all good questions, and they will all be answered with scripture! I hope the basic points were made. Believing alone or simply believing by itself will never bring salvation to anyone!

Have you missed out the concept of God's plan of salvation and the reason for the things that He requires of us, like Believing, obedience, repentance, faith, etc.?

We recommend you study this entire book. Take notes and verify everything.

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We will continue comparing every study to John Doe and see if at the end, he was truly saved!

Notes:

❑ By believing, John Doe is not saved ONLY NEARER to salvation and has been sealed with God's promise of salvation until all of God's conditions are met! Rom 13:11, Eph 1:30, Eph 4:30.

Do you agree with the entire “believing” study, **YES**, or NO?
If not, why not?

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