

John 3:16 ~ Do You Act Like You Believe?

† Opening Announcements:

Ezra 10:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴ Arise! For *this* matter is your responsibility, but we will be with you; be courageous and act.”

Get up! Stand up for what we believe in!

Gitter Done! We are in this together! Rise up and Minister!

† Annual Meeting will be Feb 17.

We will hold elections for Elders,

Amend the ByLaws and Constitution

and Have a Financial Report.

A State of the Assembly brief address will occur.

† I concecrate this service and all in it to the Kingdom of Light, the Kingdom of Love, the Kingdom of Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

✠ Greater is He that is in me than He that is in the world.

1 John 4:4 The Passion Translation (TPT)

⁴ Little children, you can be certain that you belong to God and have conquered them, for the One who is living in you is far greater than the one who is in the world.

✠ No weapon formed against us shall prosper.

Isaiah 54:17 Passion Translation (TPT)

¹⁷ But I promise you, no weapon meant to hurt you will succeed, and you will refute every accusing word spoken against you. This promise is the inheritance of Yahweh’s servants, and their vindication is from me” says Yahweh.

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✚ Every curse will rebound upon the sender.

Proverbs 26:2 The Passion Translation (TPT)

² An undeserved curse will be powerless to harm you.

It may flutter over you like a bird,
but it will find no place to land.^[a]

[There is an implication in some Hebrew manuscripts that **the curse will go back and land on the one who wrongly spoke it, like a bird going back to its nest.**]

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†Recap of last week:

[1] **Difficulties are an opportunity for joy as tests of faith stir up power to proceed, to prevail!**

[2] Jesus is the only judge, and we need to put our trust in Him.

[3] Being a child of God and entering into our compassionate destiny with Him. Birth something new in Him.

[4] Our God-Life with Jesus, as we choose Him, flows into blessings.

Trials lead to power to prevail and endure.

Trust in the only Judge, Jesus to help sort things in life.

Enter into compassionate destiny with Him.

Choose Him and He will bless us.

Summation: In life, as we get more of God (often through trials and passing tests with Him) we are called to birth something new, to be productive in renewal. As we turn to Him and birth new things, we will find favor in choosing Him. Our hearts will turn to compassion.

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This week:

John 3:16 The Passion Translation

For this is how much God loved the world—he gave his one and only, unique Son as a *gift*. So now everyone who believes in him will never perish but experience everlasting life.

ME:

Do I believe it completely? In every area of my life?

Am I experiencing it?

Let me tell you about me (anecdote):

I fail to believe sometimes that this covers me completely.

I don't give Him all of my eating, or all of my TV watching. I am now giving Him more of my finances and Amazon purchasing.

{trans] I'm not alone in this, we all face similar issues.

WE

Finances, Addictions, Sin-Life.

Our unbelief weakens us as a body.

Lots of little weaknesses make the whole structure weaker.

Take a steel girder bridge. What if each tress developed a tiny weakness, or several of them? Individually, it may not add up to catastrophe. But it may, under certain stresses, prove weak enough to fail. Like when a bathroom gets painted or a sanctuary recarpeted. That is a whole new level of stress for those girders to bear!

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Or when wind shears in a new direction in power all of a sudden.
Faults are stressed in ways they are not designed for and pop!

In what way do we all affect us, our relationships, our God?

{trans] God has much to say about this-let's discover what He teaches us.

GOD

We should believe in Jesus and His complete work!

[1] We have trouble believing in the supernatural, preferring to believe in the natural only.

[2] God's Love and supernatural Blessing is for everyone who believes.

[3] He came to save not condemn.

We should believe Jesus!

[1] There is trouble believing supernatural, what is preached and taught in the Bible compared to what is seen in the natural.

We have trouble believing Jesus. We have trouble believing other people's testimonies.

God talks about this in His Book, in John's Gospel, 3rd chapter:

John 3:10-21 The Passion Translation (TPT)

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Nicodemus, aren't you the respected teacher in Israel, and yet you don't understand this revelation? ¹¹ I speak eternal truths about things I know, things I've seen and experienced—and still you don't accept what I reveal. ¹² If you're unable to understand and believe what I've told you about the

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natural realm, what will you do when I begin to unveil the heavenly realm? ¹³ No one has risen into the heavenly realm except the Son of Man who also exists in heaven.”^[a]

[a] Jesus shares a mystery with Nicodemus. While he was on the earth ministering, Jesus was also in heaven in the spirit realm. Being in two places at the same time is also the privilege given to every believer. We are seated with Christ in the heavenly realm and living our earthly life to please him. This is what it means to be “in Christ.” See [Eph. 2:6](#); [Col. 3:1-5](#). In the realm of the Spirit, heaven and earth is one. Jesus is telling Nicodemus that only those who are seated in the heavenly realm will understand spiritual truths. See [1 Cor. 2:1-10](#). There are some Greek manuscripts that read “the Son of Man who came from heaven.” But the Aramaic is clearly “who is in heaven.”

We should believe because His complete work has joined us!

Ephesians 2:6 The Passion Translation (TPT)

⁶ He raised us up with Christ the exalted One, *and we ascended with him into the glorious perfection and authority* of the heavenly realm, for we are now co-seated^[a] as one with Christ! [To be “placed” or “seated” in heaven means we have been given the perfection and authority to be there.]

We should believe because His Resurrection is ours too!

Colossians 3:1-5 The Passion Translation (TPT)

One with Christ in Glory

3 Christ’s resurrection is your resurrection too. This is why we are to yearn for all that is above, for that’s where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honor, and authority!^[a] [The “right hand of God,” is an obvious metaphor for the place of power, authority, honor, and glory.] ² Yes, *feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm* and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with

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the distractions of the natural realm.³ Your crucifixion^[b] [The Aramaic could be translated “Your death and your life are both hidden with the Messiah in God.”] with Christ has severed the tie to this life, and now your true life is hidden away in God in Christ. ⁴ And as Christ himself is seen for who he really is, who you really are will also be revealed, for you are now one with him in his glory!

New Creation Life

⁵ Live as one who has died to every form of sexual sin and impurity. Live as one who died to diseases,^[c] [This is only found in the Aramaic manuscripts. It is omitted in the Greek.] and desires for forbidden things,^[d] [The Aramaic word implies “magic.”] including the desire for wealth, which is the essence of idol worship.

We should believe in Jesus!

[2] God’s Love and supernatural Blessing is for everyone who believes.

God’s Love for Everyone

¹⁴ **“And just as Moses in the desert lifted up the brass replica of a snake on a pole *for all the people to see and be healed,***^[b]

[Snake on a Stick: See Num. [21:8-9](#). The brass snake was an emblem of sin and disease. The Hebrew uses a word, *seraph*, which means a fiery one (fiery serpent). All of humanity has been bitten by the “snake of sin,” but Jesus was raised up on a cross for all people to see. We only need to look to him and believe, and we are healed and saved from sin.]

[Numbers 21:8-9 Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)]

⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake image and mount it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will recover.”^(A) ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and mounted it on a

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pole. Whenever someone was bitten, and he looked at the bronze snake, he recovered.]

so the Son of Man is ready to be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that those who truly believe in him^[c]

[The Aramaic participle can also be “believe on him” or “believe into him,” which could explain the variations found in the Greek text.]

will not perish but be given eternal life.

John 1:51 The Passion Translation (TPT)

⁵¹ I prophesy to you eternal truth:^[a] [As translated from the Aramaic. John records Jesus using this phrase twenty-five times. The Greek is “Amen, Amen I say to you.”]

From now on^[b] [As translated from the Aramaic.]

you will see^[c] [Or “you [plural] will spiritually see.” This is a promise for every believer today.]

an open heaven and gaze upon the Son of Man^[d] [This is a messianic term pointing to Christ, not as the son of a man, but the Son of Man (humanity). He is the true Man. He is not Joseph’s son, but the Son of God.]

like a stairway reaching into the sky^[e] [This is an obvious reference to “Jacob’s Ladder” as the fulfillment of his dream found in Gen. [28:10-22](#). Jesus Christ is that stairway that joins earth to heaven and brings heaven to earth. The word for “angels” can be translated “messengers” and could be humans given access into the heavenly realm through the blood of Jesus. Jesus, as the stairway, is both in heaven and on earth as he speaks this to Nathanael. What mysteries surround him!]

with the messengers of God climbing up and down upon^[f] [Or “next to.”]

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him!”

John 20:17 The Passion Translation (TPT)

¹⁷ Jesus cautioned her, “**Mary, don’t hold on to me now, for I haven’t yet ascended to God, my Father. And he’s not only my Father and God, but now he’s your Father and your God! Now go to my brothers^[a]** [This is the first time in John’s Gospel that Jesus calls his disciples “brothers.” See [Heb. 2:10-12.](#)]

and tell them what I’ve told you, that I am ascending to my Father—and your Father, to my God—and your God!”

Revelation 22:21 The Passion Translation (TPT)

²¹ May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the holy believers. Amen!

Here’s the best part!

¹⁶ For this is how much God loved the world—he gave his one and only, unique Son as a gift.^[d]

[Or “God proved he loved the world by giving his Son.”]

So now everyone who believes in him^[e]

[Or “believe into him.” Salvation and regeneration must be by faith. True faith (Gr. *pistis*) has a number of components: acceptance, embracing something (someone) as truth, union with God and his Word, and an inner confidence that God alone is enough.]

will never perish but experience everlasting life.

This salvation uplifts, it speaks Life! It is not harsh, it does not condemn!

We should believe in Jesus!

[3] He came to save not condemn.

¹⁷ “God did not send his Son into the world to judge and condemn the world, but to be its Savior and rescue it!^[f] ¹⁸ So now there is no longer any condemnation for those who believe in him, but the

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unbeliever already lives under condemnation because they do not believe in the name of God's beloved Son.^[g]

[Or "one and only Son."]

John 12:43 The Passion Translation (TPT)

⁴³ For they loved the glory that men could give them rather than the glory that came from God!

Jd 1

¹⁹ And here is the basis for their judgment: The Light of God has now come into the world, but the hearts of people love their darkness more than the Light, because they want the darkness to conceal their evil. ²⁰ So the wicked^[h]

[The Aramaic is "those who do hateful things."]

hate the Light and try to hide from it, for their lives are fully exposed in the Light. ²¹ But those who love the truth^[i]

[Or "practice the truth."]

will come out into the Light and welcome its exposure, for the Light will reveal that their fruitful works were produced by God."

We should believe in Jesus and His complete work!

[1] We have trouble believing in the supernatural, preferring to believe in the natural only.

[2] God's Love and supernatural Blessing is for everyone who believes.

[3] He came to save not condemn.

{trans] Its not enough to study the Bible, we must put it into practice.

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YOU

“Oh yeah, what we gonna do? Jesus came to save us, that’s me an’ you?”

Believe!

In every area, make Him Lord.

Accept Him as Lord and then let Him be lord. Ask Him to be Lord!

Jeff Vanderstelt advocates stopping when you find yourself evincing unbelief and going back to what you believe about from the Bible.

It’s so easy to slide off track!

Get back on track by restating what you believe from the Bible and how it applies in this situation.

Turn unbelief into belief and then act on it!

{trans] We’re in this together, we can help each other.

WE

Imagine a world in which we regrouped like that! If we catch one another and help them pull out of the spin and get back on track.

Not in a condemning way, but in a loving way!

God will help us experience Salvation Living in this way!

John 3:16-17 The Passion Translation (TPT)

¹⁶ For this is how much God loved the world—he gave his one and only, unique Son as a gift.^[a] So now everyone who believes in him^[b] will never perish but experience everlasting life.

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17 “God did not send his Son into the world to judge and condemn the world, but to be its Savior and rescue it!”^[c]

{Prayer}

“God proved he loved the world by giving his Son.”

So “believe into him.”

Salvation and regeneration must be by faith.

True faith (Gr. *pistis*) has a number of components:

acceptance, embracing something (someone) as truth, union with God and his Word, and an inner confidence that God alone is enough.

Then we “shall live by his hand” (of power).

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[For Support, not for sermon]

1 Corinthians 2:1-10 The Passion Translation (TPT)

Paul's Reliance on Spiritual Power

2 My brothers and sisters,^[a] when I first came to proclaim to you the secrets^[b] of God, I refused to come *as an expert*, trying to impress you with my eloquent speech and lofty wisdom. **2** For while I was with you I was determined to be consumed with one topic—Jesus, the crucified Messiah.^[c] **3** I stood before you feeling inadequate, filled with reverence for God,^[d] and trembling *under the sense of the importance of my words*.^[e] **4** The message I preached and how I preached it was not an attempt to sway you with persuasive arguments but to prove to you the almighty power of God's Holy Spirit. **5** For God intended that your faith not be established on man's wisdom but by trusting in his almighty power.

Wisdom from God

6 However, there is a wisdom that we continually speak of when we are among the spiritually mature.^[f] It's wisdom that didn't originate in this present age, nor did it come from the rulers of this age who are in the process of being dethroned.^[g] **7** Instead, we^[h] continually speak of this wonderful wisdom that comes from God, hidden before now in a mystery.^[i] It is his secret plan, destined^[j] before the ages, *to bring* us into glory.^[k] **8** None of the rulers of this present world order understood it,^[l] for if they had, they never would have crucified the Lord of shining glory.^[m] **9** This is why the Scriptures say:

Things never discovered or heard of before,
things beyond our ability to imagine^[n]—
these are the many things God has in store
for all his lovers.^[o]

10 But God now unveils these profound realities to us by the Spirit.^[p] Yes, he has revealed to us his inmost heart and deepest mysteries through the Holy Spirit, who constantly explores all things.

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Footnotes:

- a. [1 Corinthians 2:1](#) Or “brothers.”
- b. [1 Corinthians 2:1](#) As translated from the Aramaic. Some Greek manuscripts have “testimony.” Paul, as a steward of the mysteries of God ([1 Cor. 4:1](#)), comes to them bringing a clear revelation of God’s mysteries. The Greek word *mustērion* (secret, or mystery) is found twenty-eight times in the New Testament.
- c. [1 Corinthians 2:2](#) Paul could have easily impressed the Corinthians with his vast knowledge of the Torah and the Jewish laws. But he was resolved to forget every other topic and stay focused on Christ and his cross. He wanted the power of the Spirit to work through his singular message.
- d. [1 Corinthians 2:3](#) As translated from the Aramaic. The Greek is “I was with you in fear and trembling.”
- e. [1 Corinthians 2:3](#) Paul was not simply filled with dread or fear, but filled with how important it was to present the gospel clearly to the Corinthians. See also [2 Cor. 10:10](#); [11:6](#).
- f. [1 Corinthians 2:6](#) Or “those who have reached perfection.” The Greek term for “spiritually mature” in this verse is found in classical Greek, describing those who have been initiated into mysteries. It most likely refers in this context to those who believed Paul’s message containing the mysteries of God ([2:1](#)). Paul uses the word *wisdom* sixteen times in the first three chapters of 1 Corinthians.
- g. [1 Corinthians 2:6](#) Or “rulers who are doomed to come to nothing” or “the nullified overlords of this present age.” This does not refer merely to human governments, but to the dethroned rulers of darkness that know nothing of God’s secret wisdom.
- h. [1 Corinthians 2:7](#) Many times in 1 and 2 Corinthians when Paul uses the pronoun *we*, he is referring to the apostles of the church, gifts of Christ who are sent to teach the mysteries of God. See [1 Cor. 4:1](#); [Eph. 4:11-13](#).
- i. [1 Corinthians 2:7](#) That is, something so profound it is beyond the scope of human ingenuity and unattainable by human reasoning. Wisdom comes from above and is given to those who love God and live in awe of him.
- j. [1 Corinthians 2:7](#) Or “decreed.” The Greek word *proorizo* means “to mark out the boundaries.” It is a form of the word *horizon*. God has marked out ahead of time the horizon of the ages and will finish his predetermined plan perfectly.
- k. [1 Corinthians 2:7](#) The Aramaic can be translated “for our glorification” or “so that glory may be ours.”
- l. [1 Corinthians 2:8](#) Although it is possible that this refers to human rulers, it is hard to imagine how Herod, Pilate, and the Jewish authorities could be equated to the words “rulers of [over] this present world order (*aeon*).” It seems clear that Paul is speaking of the principalities and powers of darkness, who were clueless about the efficacy of Christ’s crucifixion to realign the universe and initiate a new kingdom under our Lord Jesus Christ.
- m. [1 Corinthians 2:8](#) Or a genitive of quality, “the Lord, to whom glory belongs.” This is the only place in the New Testament with the term “Lord of shining glory.” The church father Augustine translated this “the Lord who dispenses glory” (an objective genitive: Augustine, *On the Trinity*, 1:12:24).
- n. [1 Corinthians 2:9](#) Or “entered the heart.”
- o. [1 Corinthians 2:9](#) See Isa. [64:4](#).
- p. [1 Corinthians 2:10](#) Or “God has provided us with a revelation through the Spirit.” This difficult-to-translate Greek sentence may contain an ellipsis, which would render it “Yet *we speak* [or *we know*] what God has revealed to us by the Spirit.”