

Saving Faith or Works Salvation?

There is no other way that John the Baptist said what he said in Jn 3:36 than the way he meant it. He said it the way he meant it and meant it the way he said it. There are translators who don't like the way he said it so they put another spin on it. They say "does not believe" instead of "does not obey."

We want to understand what he meant. It sounds like works salvation in that verse, so some translators say *disbelieve* instead of *disobey*. But the word in the Greek means *disobey*. Acts 5:32 also addresses the issue of obeying the Son. He gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey the Son. This is in the context of Acts 5:29-33. It is the Son that a person has to be obedient to.

Jn 3:36 in the NIV says "whoever rejects the Son" but it does not say that. They chose that because *disobey* sounds like works salvation. They don't see that they are deceiving people; they don't even realize who is leading them. You can see that same spirit in the context of Acts 5:29-33.

In Jn 3:36, it actually says, "If anyone believes *into* the Son..." and that is very important, especially when you look into what *into* means in the Greek. Your Bible will probably say "believes *in* the Son" which makes room for just a mental belief rather than the total entrusting of one's life to, an immersion of one's life into the Son, which is what the actual word in the Greek means.

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (Jn 3:36, NAS)

This verse applies after being confronted with the essential gospel – the words and commands of the Son. Through it they learn who our Master is and what He did for them, what He went through on their behalf. They may claim to believe, but if they don't obey, they do not believe. Their obedience validates their belief. Those who obey Him believe into the Son. We have to believe *into* the Son.

With the story of the rich young ruler we are trying to understand how to present the good news to people. If you don't understand it and you don't care to understand it, then maybe you are not a believer at all. We are only here on earth for a little while and we must make the most of our time (Eph 5:15-16). The rich young ruler rejected the Son. He didn't trust the Son. He knew that Yahshua was the one who could give eternal life to people, for he asked Him, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mk 10:17). You do not trust someone whom you do not obey.

The only one who could give him eternal life was Yahshua. You can see that in Mk 10:17 and 21. Obviously he would profess that he believed in Him, or he never would have asked Him what he must do to have eternal life. His belief was like those of Jn 2:23-24. It says many believed in Him, but the word *believe* is #4100, and in verse 24 it says, "He would not entrust Himself to them" and that word *entrust* is also #4100. He wouldn't entrust Himself to them because He knew what was really working in them. He would not put His trust in them because they would not put their trust in Him.

To Believe *Into* or *Unto* Him

The belief of the rich young ruler was not *unto* Him. It was not to the point that he would obey Him, leave everything behind, give up all his possessions, and come follow Him. Obviously he didn't want to follow Him that badly. He would not obey the One who could give him eternal life. He could not follow Him with all of his riches and he would not leave them behind. You cannot be His follower and keep your own possessions. They prevent you from following Him. That man had his comfort in full.

Obedience is a very important issue here. We can't obey if we don't believe. There is the essential gospel and there is obeying Him, which proves that we trust Him. Believe means entrust (#4100), and that is why our Master said the rich young ruler wasn't complete – "there is one thing you lack." He would not entrust himself to the Son, as Jn 2:23 says. Whoever believes into the Son, as in Jn 3:36, obeys Him. Whoever doesn't

believe *into*, does not obey and is not saved, but the wrath of God abides on him. They hear the message but they don't believe in it.

That word *into* indicates purpose and identity, such as baptism for the remission of sins, or as baptism *into* Moses, which is to be immersed into what he was called to do (1 Cor 10:1-2). The children of Israel were baptized *into* Moses, meaning they were totally identified with Moses, his purpose, his calling, into all that he was doing.

He was like every apostle sent out to establish a community. You are totally identified with him, his purpose, his calling. You have to do the will of our Master and you have to do the will of those who ministered salvation to you, speaking the truth of the many other words to you. You have to qualify to receive our Master Yahshua. You can then qualify to be His dwelling place. In Acts 2:42 they were devoted to our Master's teaching, the fellowship of the apostles, the Breaking of Bread, and to the prayers that were lifted up.

1 Jn 1:2-3 — Our fellowship is with Him, and yours is with us, so therefore you are in the right channel. If you are in fellowship with a false apostle or another teacher, you are not in the right channel and are not receiving from the Holy Spirit. You know what Jn 13:20 says, "If they receive you they receive Me, and if they receive Me, they receive the Father." That is reconciliation.

1 Tim 2:4-5 — We bring people to Messiah, and He brings them to the Father. We can't take them to the Father, for our Master said, "No one can come to the Father except through Me" (Jn 14:6). To be baptized into the Son is what Gal 3:27 says. It means you are clothed with Messiah. How does it read?

"For as many of you as were baptized into Messiah have put on Messiah."

You are baptized into His skin. You are clothed with Him. That means to be baptized into His body. 1 Cor 12:12 speaks about the human body and the Body of Messiah. It is a metaphor to instruct us how all the parts obey the head. They are all in communication, working together. There is not one part of the human body that does

not obey the head (it must be the same with the Body of Messiah). It is an amazing thing that my tongue can say what is going on in my heart and mind. It is incredible what is going on in our human body. Faith comes by what? Hearing. How does it say in 1 Cor 12:12?

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”

So also is Messiah. How does that happen?

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Cor 12:13)

That is a corporeal Body.

To obey the Son in Acts 5:32 and Jn 3:36 is to believe into. It is to be identified totally with Him in the same purpose, the same cause. We are allied with one another as brothers (Pr 17:17). To disobey the Son in Jn 3:36 means you do not obey the many other words the apostles preach. We have to preach and proclaim the comprehensive gospel. Not just the first part, “Jesus loves you. Did you believe that in your heart? Did you ask Him to come in?”

Then someone says, “What does that mean?”

And the answer comes, “You have to get on our bus. There will be bumpy roads ahead and flat tires. You can’t bring your house, your boat, or your Subaru along for the ride. All you can do is get in yourself, for the doors to the bus are pretty narrow. All the luggage compartments down below are full of Freepapers.

Jn 3:36 — To believe the Son is to obey the many other words, as the men asked in Acts 2:37 and heard the answer in Acts 2:38-40:

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Yahshua ha-Mashiyach for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

Did Peter start baptizing them immediately after they asked to be saved? No, but in verse 40 it says he went on and on. How long? I don't know. They got to see if they truly believed in this life they were hearing about. There were a million people there. I don't know how many were listening, but they were listening in every tongue. Only three thousand received, and so many of the rest went away sad like the rich young ruler, with their heads down, because they didn't want to give up their possession.

To obey the many other words validates each person's belief. There will be a ferreting process in the Body of Messiah as Mt 24:9-13 says. It will be a clearing, a cleansing of those who really believe from those who don't really believe, of those who do the works prepared for them and those who don't, and of those who work for their glory and those who work for the glory of Yahshua.

Mt 24:13 seems like it is right before we flee. What does it say?

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Mt 24:9-13)

The love of *many*, not most, will grow cold. Those who endure to the end are actually saved. This happens before the woman flees to the wilderness. What happens to the ones who are ferreted out? You can see what happens in 2 Ths 1:8-9. They can't endure the hard times that come. They are tested on their probation – this life in the community – which we are all on as far as the Kingdom is concerned.

“In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Sovereign Yahshua ha-Mashiyach. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Sovereign and from the glory of His power.”

We are not talking about people who have never heard, but of those who have heard and disobeyed. What happens to those who don't chose to know Him in their heart

and conscience and to those who disobey the gospel? It doesn't say *disbelieve* there. The people who claimed to believe are already burned up (Rev 17:16; 18:8,10).

The Wise and the Foolish Virgins

When the woman flees, only the wise and the foolish go into the wilderness. There are the natural men that pretend they are saved. Then there are the foolish virgins who are saved, but they are foolish, not loving their brother as they should, and selfish in certain ways. They are not pouring out their lives 100% in certain ways. Then there are the wise virgins. They do their works in the Body with a right attitude. They are true. Are there any other kinds of people in the Body? The wise and the foolish go into the wilderness together (Mt 24:40-41). Rev 17:14 says that when our Master returns, only those who are faithful will be taken with Him at that time. It doesn't mean the rest do not have eternal life, but they have to go through a remedial time of discipline. When the war is over they will be judged according to their works.

1 Cor 3:12-15 — Their works were found faulty, as built with hay, wood, and stubble, but the person is saved as through fire. To enter the Kingdom it is according to what? Our works. Eternal life is a gift given by Him, to those who believe and trust in Him enough to obey Him. That is a gift. Their names are written in the Lamb's book of life. That is settled for those who have truly trusted. Now is the time to be faithful in order to rule in the next age with our Master. Rev 3:4 – Most in Sardis were stained. Their garments, which they received at baptism, were pure white, but now they are stained. They weren't worthy to rule with Him (Rev 3:4-5,21).

We have to overcome everything we have to overcome to be worthy to rule with Him. We have to overcome these iniquities we inherited or gained in childhood, like giving in to peer pressure. Or the way we don't trust our brothers or get indignant. Are we perfect? It would seem that only our Master can be righteously indignant.

What is a foolish virgin? They are those who don't read the Word. They do not care about it. It has little or no meaning to them. But it must come to mean what it does to the fullest degree. Why don't we prosper according to Pr 28:13? It is because we are not forsaking our sin. Whoever does will find compassion and mercy. How many go to the Throne of Grace in Heb 4:16? How many have stopped going? Well, the people who are not receiving mercy have stopped. We have to go there in our time of need to find mercy and help. Would that be a foolish person who stopped going to the Throne of Grace? Yes it would, and then we end up with a "poor me" attitude. "Poor me, poor me..."

It doesn't seem logical that those who do not obey the Son would last long in the Body, but some do and they will be exposed and "left behind" at that time (Mt 24:40-41). Those who are faithful participate with our Master in that war. Then those left behind will be judged based on their works. They were foolish. They weren't supplying grace with their works. They did them in their own natural strength. 1 Pet 4:10 demystifies Mt 24:14-30. We understand it through 1 Pet 4:10 and also Rom 12:4-10.

Faith and grace have to be added to our gifts and abilities. Here I am, talking. What if I have not prayed and asked for grace, "Father, help me to say what You want to say?" What good would it do? Nothing. But if I did pray, and our Father heard my prayer, then you who hear are held accountable. For there are two kinds of people who hear, as Jn 7:18 says. They are those who seek their own glory and those who seek the glory of the one who sent them to speak. Some people will pray just to be heard or just to be a man-pleaser, but not from the Holy Spirit. Then the next verse in 1 Pet 4:11 says whoever speaks, it had better be that they are speaking from the Holy Spirit. It had better be. Is Billy Graham speaking from the Holy Spirit? Sometimes do we just speak from our mind? Or is it love that is coming forth?

Everything will be exposed in the end, as we said about the foolish virgins in the wilderness. If you leave your first love behind you are like a clanging symbol, as 1 Cor 13 says. What does Mk 10:21 say?

Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

That is the result of verse 17, which was a question:

Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"

That is what He told him, but he wasn't willing to do it. Those who would not trust him, like the rich young ruler, are those who disobey the Son. So, the wrath of God remains upon them, as Jn 3:36 says. You can't obey someone you don't trust. You can, maybe as a man-pleaser, but not in sincerity and truth. The word *disobey* in that verse, as in many other places in the Scriptures, means *disobey*. It means not trusting one who commands them to do something. So, therefore, if our Master commands us to do something and we don't do it, it simply means we don't trust Him. "I don't want eternal life that way," we are saying, "I want it another way."

Mt 28:18-20 means teach them to obey all that He has commanded us. That teaching exposes the inner attitude, which is outwardly expressed in disobedience. It is the opposite of #4100, which means to believe into. There are two types of belief, one mental and one spiritual. The Spirit connects you to our Master Yahshua. Rom 10:9-10 – Whoever believes (which cannot happen as a result of mere mental effort) has that resolve in their heart to obey the many other words, which come not first, but second. How can they be saved unless they hear? How can they be sent unless someone sends them? They can't send themselves, can they?

1 Jn 4:2-3 – Where are you from? You can't confess Him unless He is right there with you. Who can confess His glory? The one who has Him right there in him, the one who has come to the place where He lives (Jn 12:26). It is not something you say about

Yahshua coming two thousand years ago. Anyone can say that, but who can confess it in his or her heart? They are the ones who want to seek His glory.

The Baptism of Peter

Peter – I want to obey the Son. I want to surrender. I am tired of fighting.

We believe you. We have been waiting for you. Have no fear.

Ha-êmeq – What was coming to me when you were speaking, Yoneq, were the terms of peace. When a man throws up his hands in surrender, he hears the terms of peace. When a man surrenders as our Master taught, salvation works. It has worked for us. “Couldn’t it be just a little different? I don’t know about that. I don’t like the terms.”

The terms are the terms. If you obey them, with nothing in your pockets and you are totally surrendered, then salvation will come to you as it has come to us.

Nothing spells it out like Lk 14:26-33. They are the terms of peace. If you don’t surrender, the greater army will crush you. What if he kept a few warheads around, just in case? It is unconditional surrender.

Ha-êmeq – You are only going to find peace if it unconditional surrender. We have found and obeyed the terms of peace.

Do we have something to say to him, this brother-to-be?

Shemuel – The reason we obey is because His word is in us. People could follow Yahshua because He was doing the Word. It was already in Him. We read the Scriptures and we do it, because the Word is in us. False religion has the Bible and they give it to people, but they can’t call them to follow, because they aren’t obeying. I am thankful that you can see that the word is in us and that you can follow and make that commitment.

Hilkiyah – Are you willing to renounce all your former doctrines and teachings to have Yahshua’s teaching and His anointing. You will have to renounce and forsake all that to receive Yahshua’s teachings, which will be given to you if there is total surrender.

Peter – Yes, I am.

Hakam – I believe Peter is really sincere man and that is why he is so testy in his nature, because he wants the truth. What you heard today was the pure gospel, probably the clearest thing that has ever been said about the

gospel. You said yes and my heart said yes, and that is the witness to me that you heart is like my heart. That is how we know your faith is sincere because we see your heart respond like our heart responds. We believe into Him and put our full trust in Him. We believe He is going to grant you eternal life because you are going to put your full trust in Him.

Peter – I need every one of you. I am growing older and I have never had a home or friends. Yoneq told me a few weeks ago I was wasting my life and I am. I am tired of traveling around and being a gypsy. I have so much to give and no one to give it to. I am making this decision for my future, for anyone's that come from me. I know where the world is going. I see in my inner man that trouble is coming.

Hilkiyah said it and we have to face it. You have had trouble believing in what we believe and we feel that you need to receive the identical spirit we have, which is given by the baptism into the Spirit of our Father, in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, so that you can receive the person of the Holy Spirit. Do you believe He is a person?

Peter – I don't quite understand the oneness of the Trinity, but I am willing to receive it.

Okay, wonderful. Our Father loves us. We come from all kinds of haywiredness. He wants to restore all things, that are fallen, messed up, and haywire. He knows that you are going to give up your rotten, stinking, life. Your own righteousness, in order to gain salvation, is rotten and stinking. It is like filthy rags, if you know what that means.

Are you ready to renounce your life and count it as dung, as Paul did, and renounce everything, and not say, "Well, I believed right about this and that."

David Zerubbabel – Surrender means he puts down his shields. He puts down his walls. They are in his mind, his fears that he is going to be deceived, so he has to figure it all out. But our Father wants to reach our hearts. We don't check in our brain at the door, but our Father wants to get past our brain and reach our heart.

We will take you to the water and say this:

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Messiah Yahshua were baptized into His death?"

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Messiah was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.” (Rom 6:1-5)

Everything you have learned is dead, dead, and dead...

“Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Messiah, we believe that we shall also live with Him.” (Rom 6:6-8).

If Paul said, “I have counted everything as dung,” then you also have to flush it down the commode. It is nothing, worthless, and you don’t keep it. It smells. A lot of people have tried to hold onto things and it starts stinking after a while. You have to get rid of it. It will show its ugly, stinking head if we don’t. Christianity has deceived more people than the so-called cults. Do we believe this man? Who has talked to him the most?

Yoceph Daniel – I love Pete and I want to see him as a brother of mine. I just want to know that you are going to love the brotherhood of believers and no longer stress over your personal items, but lay all that down and just trust your brothers.

Pete – Yes, I am.

Yoceph Daniel – I have talked to him a lot over the last month or two. The battle is between his heart and his mind. It is so wonderful when he speaks from his heart.

They hugged.

Yoceph Daniel – I have an *Amen*.

Does anyone have a reservation? Let us say *Amen* together. It means, “Let it be that you would receive the Holy Spirit when you are baptized, having made the good confession, believing that God, our Father raised our Master Yahshua from the dead.”

We gave Peter a rousing Amen, took him to the water and there, in Oceanside, we immersed him into the Body of Messiah. At his baptism he received the new name, Kepha Tamiym, as we prayed for Him to be sealed with the Holy Spirit.