

The Gospel of Salvation

The gospel of salvation entails belief, and belief entails obedience. If one believes, he can obey. The Holy Spirit is only given to those who believe and obey the gospel. This is by His grace and through His faith, which is imparted to the one who hears the true requirements of the gospel, of the good news of salvation.

All who truly believe, believe by the faith that is received by hearing a messenger – a priest or sent one (Jn 7:17-18). For faith comes by hearing, and faith impels belief, and belief brings about obedience. Acts 5:32; 2 Ths 1:8; Jn 3:36 — As the Greek text says who believes and who disobeys (#544).

The word *disbelieve* or *disobey* (#544) in Jn 3:36 describes the person in Rev 21:8 — the coward who will not obey the gospel and refuses to drink of the water of life freely (Rev 21:6-8). To not be counted among the “cowardly and unbelieving” entails or requires of the one who is thirsty that he overcome any obstacle that would keep him from obeying the urge to drink of the water of life (Rev 22:17). This overcoming takes obedience to the gospel. And in order to *obey*, one must first *believe*, for if he disbelieves he will not be able to obey, because he did not or would not receive the faith to believe and obey. Those in Rev 21:8, the cowardly and unbelieving, most likely did receive to a certain degree, or grace was available to them, but they did not allow themselves to be led to the next step in order to receive faith in order to believe and obey. The next step after belief is obedience.

What does the word mean in Rev 21:8? Unbelief or disobedience? Unbelieving or disbelieving in Rev 21:8 means that they count Messiah as not worthy of trust, as when Mk 10:21 denotes someone being confronted with Messiah. The rich young ruler disbelieved Him by failing to meet the requirements of the gospel. Our Father does not need any disobedient so-called disciples. There is nothing worse than a person such as in Jn 9:41 and 1 Jn 2:4, since they are included in the worst crimes of humanity in Rev 21:8.

In Jn 3:36 the word is *disobey*. *Faith* (#4102, from #3982), means *to persuade* the disobedient to the persuasion of Jn 6:44-45. But Jn 3:36 is #544, which means to disobey through unbelief, which Rev 21:8 describes as being “cowardly and unbelieving.” And Messiah in Jn 3:18 says that such a person is judged already for not believing unto salvation when the Word or the water of life was freely presented to him (Mt 10:41). “Judged already” means that person is condemned to the second death. This is the consequence of disobeying the gospel (Rom 10:16,21; 2 Ths 1:8) through unbelief or refusing the water of life (Jn 3:36; Acts 14:2; Heb 3:18; 1 Pet 3:20).

Jn 3:36 — *To believe* is to allow oneself to be persuaded to obey (#4100), as in Jn 3:36, Acts 14:1, and Acts 13:45-46). In Jn 2:23-25 is a good example given by John and our Master concerning a belief that was not unto obedience. Jn 7:17 — One who believes but is *not* willing to do His will is as the rich young ruler in Mk 10:17-21, who went away sad. The rich young ruler believed Yahshua could give him eternal life or he would not have asked what he should do to inherit it. It goes on to show what true belief is, which entails obedience. Mk 10:28-30 — Such belief is unto eternal life in Messiah — that is, the belief that results in being persecuted for your obedience, as verse 30 says. All who desire to lead a godly life will be persecuted (2 Tim 3:12).

What it Means to Obey the Gospel

Mt 10:37 gives understanding of what it means to obey the requirements of the gospel, as does Lk 14:26-33 and 12:49-53 (and Mk 10:17,28-30). This does not divide the family of God – the family made up of the members of the Body of Messiah – but it does and will divide the secular family. If one does not obey the requirements of the gospel, which make one a member of the family of God, that person cannot be His disciple. Hating one’s life in this world (Jn 12:25), which God will destroy (2 Ths 1:9-10) is essential to being with Him (Jn 12:26). One must hate his life in the world in order to keep it unto eternal life (Jn 12:25), which brings (*immerses*, Acts 2:40) one into the Body (1 Cor 12:13) in order to serve Him where He is (Jn 12:26). This means one must cut off everything that would hold him back from following Messiah, even his own family *in the world*, and even his own life, if necessary (Lk

14:26).

To not believe, as some translations have it in Jn 3:36, is #544 from #545, which is to be unpersuadable, meaning grace was there in order to be able to hear the truth in the gospel of salvation, but they would not receive faith in order to obey it. #543, 545, and 546 describe what is happening when a parent or spouse or child or a brother or sister in the world try to dissuade them from obeying the truth. They forbid them to obey the gospel of Messiah by threatening them in certain ways. #546-547 – A position of difficulty, perplexity, distress, or need; *threatening* as to deprogram them, which is to confine to a torture-chamber situation and circumstance.

So the gospel is clear: Lk 14:26; Mt 10:34-38; Mk 3:31-35; Mk 10:29-30; Lk 12:49-53; 2 Ths 1:9-10; Act s 5:32; and Jn 3:18,36.

Rev 21:6-8; 22:17 — These are the cowardly and *disbelieving* (#571). The prefix *dis* indicates a rejection, or as those in Acts 13:45-46, who would not trust in the Savior, just as the rich young ruler would not obey the Son (Jn 8:51). He would not do what the Master Yahshua asked him to do (Jn 8:31-32,36) and so was incapable of being part of the witness of His life on earth (Jn 12:34-35; 1 Jn 3:14,16,23; Jn 14:21,24).

Jn 14:15 — Do you claim to know Him or love Him? 1 Jn 2:4 — To claim to know Him but to never obey His gospel, or His commands to love as He did (Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 3:16), makes you an unmitigated liar (Rev 21:8; 22:15) whose destiny is the lake of fire, and whose guilt remains throughout eternity (Jn 9:41). For it is impossible to obey His commands outside His Body, which is a community (Gal 3:27-29; Acts 2:44; 4:32-37; 2:36-41). If you don't believe it, leave the Body behind and go out into the world and try to obey His every command, and you will find out that it takes a community (Acts 2:44). That is the "one another" (Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 3:23,14,16).

So, don't let the evil one lead you astray (Rev 12:9; 20:3,10). The way is narrow and few enter in through the door, for it takes what necessitates obedience to Messiah's words in order to have eternal life, which is: grace, then faith, then belief, and then – and only then – obedience (1 Jn 2:14; Eph 2:10; 4:12,16).

The water of life is the Holy Spirit, which one can only receive after:

- a. Grace comes (Jn 4:14);
- b. Faith comes (Jn 7:37-39);
- c. Belief comes, and when (Rev 21:6-8, 22:17)
- d. Obedience comes, the Holy Spirit enters into your spirit (1 Cor 6:17) and you become one

with Him.

We are saved by grace. That is, we are positioned to hear the words of life in order to receive the persuasion by the Holy Spirit, which impels the belief that impels the obedience to the words of the Messiah as recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. That is how it was on the Day of Pentecost when the good news was preached and believed and the outcome is recorded in the Book of Acts (Acts 2:42; Lk 14:33; Acts 2:44-45; 4:34).

So, why not obey His commandments and let the dead bury the dead, and you, come and follow Me! You may even be the first one of your family to do so.

Rev 22:17 — The Spirit and the Bride work together. The Bride is the Community of the Redeemed. It is the Body which the Spirit dwells in. It is the witness of His Kingdom to come (Mt 21:43; 24:14).