

OBEY

Acts 5:36
Acts 5:37

Romans 2:8
Galatians 3:1

Galatians 5:7
Hebrews 13:17

James 3:3

BELIEVE

Acts 17:4

Acts 27:11

Acts 28:24

CONFIDENCE

Romans 2:19
2 Corinthians 2:3
Galatians 5:10

Philippians 1:6
Philippians 1:14
Philippians 1:25

Philippians 3:3
2 Thessalonians 3:4
Philemon 21

MISCELLANEOUS

Acts 5:40 (agreed)
Acts 12:20 (having made; their friend)

Acts 23:21 (do; yield)
1 John 3:19 (assure)

BELIEVE MEANS BELIEVE

Man insists on *doing something* to deserve salvation, so the religions of men invariably prescribe some form of personal effort to qualify for God's approval. But the one who does the work is the one who gets the glory, and God will share His glory with no man. Therefore God Himself has done all that is necessary to provide justification as a free gift to those who simply believe what He says about what He has done for them.

Many sincere people who cannot completely release their grip on good works assert that "believe" implies more than simple faith, so they insist that things like "repentance from sins" or "total commitment to Christ as Lord," which simply amount to forms of human works, must also be present for faith to be effective. In other words, those who believe the gospel but do not meet the additional qualifications are not true Christians.

But, is that really what the Bible says? The charts below provide definitions and references to every place in the New Testament in which the original Greek words for "faith" and "believe" are found. As you read each one and pay particular attention to how the words are actually used you will see for yourself what faith and believing really mean.

William R. Newell

"Through faith' is more accurate, as the preposition is *dia*, 'through...'

Faith is not 'trust,' and must be carefully distinguished [from it], if we would have a clear conception of the Gospel...

Faith is simply the acceptance for ourselves of the testimony of God as true... After saving faith, the life of trust begins... trust is always looking forward to what God will do; but faith sees that what God says has been done, and believes God's Word, having the conviction that it is true, and true for ourselves.

In saving faith, then, you do not trust God to do something for you: He has sent His Son, who has borne sin for you. You do not look to Christ to do something to save you: He has done it at the Cross. You simply receive God's testimony as true, setting your seal [to it]. You rest in God's Word regarding Christ and His work for you. You rest in Christ's shed blood."

Romans, Verse by Verse, pp. 107-109.

Watchman Nee

"How did you receive forgiveness? You realized that the Lord Jesus died as your Substitute and bore your sins upon Himself and that His Blood was shed to cleanse away your defilement.

When you saw your sins all taken away on the Cross, what did you do? Did you say, 'Lord Jesus, please come and die for my sins?' No, you did not pray at all; you only thanked the Lord. You did not beseech Him to come and die for you, for you realized that He had already done so."

The Normal Christian Life, pp. 34-35.

Illegitimate Totality Transfer

The comprehensive definitions found in concordances often lead the unwary researcher into the error described by James Barr (*Semantics of Biblical Languages*, Oxford University Press, London, 1961, p. 218) as "illegitimate totality transfer."

The error that arises when the "meaning" of a word (understood as the total series of relations in which it is used in the literature) is read into a particular case as its sense and implication there.

In other words, "faith" and "believe" are not defined by adding up all of the ways in which the words in the original language are used in all contexts. Even though the words may have a broader meaning when used in other contexts, the relevant definition is determined by the way they are used in the specific context of describing saving faith.

Definitions and word numbers are from James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*, Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996.

BELIEVE (pisteuo)

4100 pisteuw {pist-yoo'-o}; verb -- from 4102

AV - believe 239 times, commit unto 4, commit to (one's) trust 1, be committed unto 1, be put in trust with 1, be committed to one's trust 1, believer 1.

- 1) To think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in
 - 1a) of the thing believed
 - 1b) in a moral or religious reference
 - 1b1) used in the NT of the conviction and trust to which a man is impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative and law of soul
 - 1b2) to trust in Jesus or God as able to aid either in obtaining or in doing something: saving faith
- 2) To entrust a thing to one, i.e. his fidelity

Matthew 8:13	Mark 5:36	Mark 16:14	Luke 22:67	John 4:42
Matthew 9:28	Mark 9:23	Mark 16:16	Luke 24:25	John 4:48
Matthew 21:22	Mark 9:24	Mark 16:17	John 1:7	John 4:50
Matthew 21:25	Mark 11:23	Luke 1:20	John 1:50	John 4:53
Matthew 21:32	Mark 11:24	Luke 1:45	John 2:22	John 5:24 *
Matthew 24:23	Mark 11:31	Luke 8:12	John 3:12	John 5:38
Matthew 24:26	Mark 13:21	Luke 8:13	John 3:36	John 5:44
Matthew 27:42	Mark 15:32	Luke 8:50	John 4:21	John 5:46
Mark 1:15	Mark 16:13	Luke 20:5	John 4:41	John 5:47

* "... on..." is not found in the original Greek.

Berean Bible Ministries

P.O. Box 5774, Fargo ND 58105-5774

Web site: www.bbmbp.org

Email: bbm@bbmbp.org

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John 6:30	John 14:11	Acts 13:39	Romans 4:17	Ephesians 1:19	Acts 16:5	Romans 16:26	Ephesians 4:13	1 Timothy 6:10	Hebrews 11:22
John 6:36	John 14:29	Acts 13:41	Romans 4:18	1 Thess. 1:7	Acts 17:31	1 Cor. 2:5	Ephesians 6:16	1 Timothy 6:11	Hebrews 11:23
John 6:64	John 16:27	Acts 13:48	Romans 6:8	1 Thess. 2:10	Acts 20:21	1 Cor. 12:9	Ephesians 6:23	1 Timothy 6:12	Hebrews 11:24
John 6:69	John 16:30	Acts 14:1	Romans 10:4	1 Thess. 2:13	Acts 24:24	1 Cor. 13:2	Philippians 1:25	1 Timothy 6:21	Hebrews 11:27
John 8:24	John 16:31	Acts 15:5	Romans 10:9	1 Thess. 4:14	Acts 26:18	1 Cor. 13:13	Philippians 1:27	2 Timothy 1:5	Hebrews 11:28
John 8:45	John 17:8	Acts 15:7	Romans 10:10	2 Thess. 1:10	Romans 1:5	1 Cor. 15:14	Philippians 2:17	2 Timothy 1:13	Hebrews 11:29
John 8:46	John 17:21	Acts 15:11	Romans 10:16	2 Thess. 2:11	Romans 1:8	1 Cor. 15:17	Philippians 3:9	2 Timothy 2:18	Hebrews 11:30
John 9:18	John 19:35	Acts 16:34	Romans 13:11	2 Thess. 2:12	Romans 1:12	1 Cor. 16:13	Colossians 1:4	2 Timothy 2:22	Hebrews 11:31
John 9:38	John 20:8	Acts 17:12	Romans 14:2	2 Timothy 1:12	Romans 1:17	2 Cor. 1:24	Colossians 1:23	2 Timothy 3:8	Hebrews 11:33
John 10:25	John 20:25	Acts 17:34	Romans 15:13	Hebrews 4:3	Romans 3:3	2 Cor. 4:13	Colossians 2:5	2 Timothy 3:10	Hebrews 11:39
John 10:26	John 20:29	Acts 18:27	1 Cor. 1:21	Hebrews 11:6	Romans 3:22	2 Cor. 5:7	Colossians 2:7	2 Timothy 3:15	Hebrews 12:2
John 10:37	John 20:31	Acts 19:2	1 Cor. 3:5	James 2:19	Romans 3:25	2 Cor. 8:7	Colossians 2:12	2 Timothy 4:7	Hebrews 13:7
John 10:38	Acts 2:44	Acts 19:18	1 Cor. 11:18	James 2:23	Romans 3:26	2 Cor. 10:15	1 Thess. 1:3	Titus 1:1	James 1:3
John 11:15	Acts 4:4	Acts 21:20	1 Cor. 13:7	1 Peter 1:8	Romans 3:27	2 Cor. 13:5	1 Thess. 1:8	Titus 1:4	James 1:6
John 11:27	Acts 4:32	Acts 21:25	1 Cor. 14:22	1 Peter 2:7	Romans 3:28	Galatians 1:23	1 Thess. 3:2	Titus 1:13	James 2:1
John 11:40	Acts 5:14	Acts 24:14	1 Cor. 15:2	1 John 4:1	Romans 3:30	Galatians 2:16	1 Thess. 3:5	Titus 2:2	James 2:5
John 11:42	Acts 8:12	Acts 26:27	1 Cor. 15:11	1 John 4:16	Romans 3:31	Galatians 2:20	1 Thess. 3:6	Titus 2:10	James 2:14
John 12:38	Acts 8:13	Acts 27:25	2 Cor. 4:13	1 John 5:1	Romans 4:5	Galatians 3:2	1 Thess. 3:7	Titus 3:15	James 2:17
John 12:39	Acts 8:37	Romans 1:16	Galatians 2:16	1 John 5:5	Romans 4:9	Galatians 3:5	1 Thess. 3:10	Philemon 5	James 2:18
John 12:47	Acts 9:26	Romans 3:22	Galatians 3:6	Jude 5	Romans 4:11	Galatians 3:7	1 Thess. 5:8	Philemon 6	James 2:20
John 13:19	Acts 11:21	Romans 4:3	Galatians 3:22		Romans 4:12	Galatians 3:8	2 Thess. 1:3	Hebrews 4:2	James 2:22
John 14:10	Acts 13:12	Romans 4:11	Ephesians 1:13		Romans 4:13	Galatians 3:9	2 Thess. 1:4	Hebrews 6:1	James 2:24
					Romans 4:14	Galatians 3:11	2 Thess. 1:11	Hebrews 6:12	James 2:26
					Romans 4:16	Galatians 3:12	2 Thess. 2:13	Hebrews 10:22	James 5:15
					Romans 4:19	Galatians 3:14	2 Thess. 3:2	Hebrews 10:38	1 Peter 1:5
					Romans 4:20	Galatians 3:22	1 Timothy 1:2	Hebrews 10:39	1 Peter 1:7
					Romans 5:1	Galatians 3:23	1 Timothy 1:4	Hebrews 11:1	1 Peter 1:9
					Romans 5:2	Galatians 3:24	1 Timothy 1:5	Hebrews 11:3	1 Peter 1:12
					Romans 9:30	Galatians 3:25	1 Timothy 1:14	Hebrews 11:4	1 Peter 5:9
					Romans 9:32	Galatians 3:26	1 Timothy 1:19	Hebrews 11:5	2 Peter 1:1
					Romans 10:6	Galatians 5:5	1 Timothy 2:7	Hebrews 11:6	2 Peter 1:5
					Romans 10:8	Galatians 5:6	1 Timothy 2:15	Hebrews 11:7	1 John 5:4
					Romans 10:17	Galatians 5:22	1 Timothy 3:9	Hebrews 11:8	Jude 3
					Romans 11:20	Galatians 6:10	1 Timothy 3:13	Hebrews 11:9	Jude 20
					Romans 12:3	Ephesians 1:15	1 Timothy 4:1	Hebrews 11:11	Revelation 2:13
					Romans 12:6	Ephesians 2:8	1 Timothy 4:6	Hebrews 11:13	Revelation 2:19
					Romans 14:1	Ephesians 3:12	1 Timothy 4:12	Hebrews 11:17	Revelation 13:10
					Romans 14:22	Ephesians 3:17	1 Timothy 5:8	Hebrews 11:20	Revelation 14:12
					Romans 14:23	Ephesians 4:5	1 Timothy 5:12	Hebrews 11:21	

BELIEVE (*pisteuo*) + *IN/ON* (*eis* or *epi*)

1519 *eij-* {ice} - a primary preposition

AV - *into* 573 times, *to* 281, *unto* 207, *for* 140, *in* 138, *on* 58, *toward* 29, *against* 26, *raise* 321

1) into, unto, to, towards, for, among

Matthew 18:6	John 6:29	John 9:35	John 12:44	Ephesians 1:13
Mark 9:42	John 6:35	John 9:36	John 12:46	Philippians 1:29
John 1:12	John 6:40	John 10:42	John 14:1	1 Timothy 3:16
John 2:11	John 6:47	John 11:25	John 14:12	Titus 3:8
John 2:23	John 7:5	John 11:26	John 16:9	1 Peter 1:211 John 3:23
John 3:15	John 7:31	John 11:45	John 17:20	Acts 10:43
John 3:16	John 7:38	John 11:48	John 10:43	1 John 5:10
John 3:18	John 7:39	John 12:11	Acts 14:23	1 John 5:13
John 3:36	John 7:48	John 12:36	Acts 18:8	
John 4:39	John 8:30	John 12:37	Acts 19:4	
John 5:24	John 8:31	John 12:42	Romans 10:14	

1909 *epi*{*epēē*} - a root; prep

AV - *on* 196 times, *in* 120, *upon* 159, *unto* 41, *to* 41, misc. 338

1) upon, on, at, by, before

Acts 9:42	Acts 16:31	Romans 4:5	Romans 9:33	1 Timothy 1:16
Acts 11:17	Acts 22:19	Romans 4:24	Romans 10:11	1 Peter 2:6

FAITH (*pistis*)

4102 (*pisti-*) {*pis' tis*} - from 3982; noun

AV - *faith* 239 times, *assurance* 1, *believe*+1537 1, *belief* 1, *them that believe* 1, *fidelity* 1

1) Conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things...

1a) relating to God.

1a1) the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ

1b) relating to Christ.

1b1) a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation...

Acts 3:16	Acts 6:7	Acts 11:24	Acts 14:9	Acts 14:27
Acts 6:5	Acts 6:8	Acts 13:8	Acts 14:22	Acts 15:9

PERSUADE (*peitho*)

3982 *peitō* {*pi'-tho*} - a primary verb

AV - *persuade* 22 times, *trust* 8, *obey* 7, *have confidence* 6, *believe* 3, *be confident* 2, misc. 7

1) Persuade

1a) to persuade, i.e., to induce one by words to believe

2) Be persuaded

2a) to be persuaded, to suffer one's self to be persuaded; to be induced to believe: to have faith in a thing

2a1) to believe

3) To trust, have confidence, be confident

PERSUADE

Matthew 27:20	Acts 14:19	Acts 26:26	Romans 15:14	Hebrews 6:9
Matthew 28:14	Acts 18:4	Acts 26:28	2 Cor. 5:11	Hebrews 11:13
Luke 16:31	Acts 19:8	Acts 28:23	Galatians 1:10	
Luke 20:6	Acts 19:26	Romans 8:38	2 Timothy 1:5	
Acts 13:43	Acts 21:14	Romans 14:14	2 Timothy 1:12	

TRUST

Matthew 27:43	Luke 11:22	2 Cor. 1:9	Philippians 2:24	Hebrews 2:13
Mark 10:24	Luke 18:9	2 Cor. 10:7	Philippians 3:4	Hebrews 13:18