



# Kingdom Activation of Remnant Ministry: Foundational Issues Part 1 | KIB 535

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## **1. Foundational Issue #1: John 3:16 – Through the Exegetical Microscope**

**John 3:16–17 (ESV)**

**16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

These two verses from John 3:16-17 encapsulate Jesus’ mission as Messiah ben Joseph. In Messiah’s first coming, He came as YHVH to provide grace and mercy to humanity. In His second coming, He will come as Elohim (Messiah ben David) to judge a world that has rejected Him and embraced darkness.

Rather than exegete this verse word by word, I want to zero in on one specific word: believe. Easy Believism has reduced this powerful word to a one-time event (i.e., making a decision for Christ) and has cheapened its true meaning. As I examined some of my more academic commentaries on these verses, I was quite impressed by the many powerful aspects that were brought to light. Yet, most danced around one word as if it was already universally understood: believe. The Greco-Roman concept of “believe” is quite different from the Hebraic understanding of the word.

The Greek word for “believe” is *pisteuo*. Grammatically, it is a verb, present, active, singular, nominative, masculine + participle. *Pisteuo* can be translated as “believe, trust, entrust, and be confident about.” (BDAG) <sup>1</sup>

**Grammatically, “present”** — The verb tense where the writer portrays an action in process or a state of being with no assessment of the action’s completion.<sup>2</sup> In other words, it is a process that is very much present and heading toward the completion of an action. In my opinion, this type of Greek word denotes an ongoing transformation. We see this reality in the life of Abraham, who believed God, changed his entire life, left Babylon, and began learning how to walk with God. His actions were manifestations of his belief in God. Becoming born-again is the beginning of the action to believe, so what is the end result or completion of the ever-present action of “believe”?

**Luke 18:8 (ESV)**

**8** I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

**Faith:** *Pistis* – Faithfulness, strong confidence in and reliance upon, fidelity.

We have already addressed this word in previous podcasts; it refers to covenantal fidelity.

IMPORTANT: We are called to be “Christ-like,” not “God-like!”

The fight we have ahead of us is the struggle to maintain our “belief” while the world screams with its alternatives! Here are some examples:

**a. Claiming to do things in the name of Christ while not manifesting His character or contradicting Christ’s teachings.**

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 816.

<sup>2</sup> Michael S. Heiser and Vincent M. Setterholm, *Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology* (Lexham Press, 2013; 2013).

- Cover-Up Culture to Protect the Organization.
- False Doctrines that glorify man and not Christ.
- The false assumption that salvation is an event instead of our journey.

**b. Redefine the concept of "believe" so that it produces nothing.**

**James 2:18–23 (ESV)**

**18** But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! **20** Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? **21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; **23** and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

True belief is revealed when obedience requires the hard things. Easy-believism always avoids the hard things about God and prefers compromise with the world.

Refusal to compromise with the world or adopt worldly systems is an act of believing. Kingdom living and Kingdom ministry have their own methodologies, ethics, and forms of empowerment, but so does the world! We cannot adopt pagan applications because they are easy into Kingdom endeavors!

**c. It is the journey that counts.**

**Endurance**

**Matthew 24:11–14 (ESV)**

**11** And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. **12** And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. **13** But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

## Confirming Your Calling and Election

### 2 Peter 1:3–11 (ESV)

**3** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, **4** by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. **5** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, **6** and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, **7** and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. **8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. **11** For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Work Out Your Salvation

### Philippians 2:12–13 (ESV)

**12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## **II. Foundational Issue #2: Moving From Babelwood to the Book of Acts**

We cannot look to any modern-day model for ministry: All of them have been contaminated by Babylon to one degree or another. The book of Acts must become our model. The Mega Church model is not found there, but the synagogal and home fellowship models are!

- a. **The Fivefold ministry functioned in the Early Church without the ecclesiastical model of the Roman Catholic Church.** When Paul wrote Ephesians 4, he was drawing from the synagogal model of the Second Temple Period. Servants of God, not hierarchy!
- b. The synagogal model included the concept of Yeshivas for deep learning of scripture. Teachings that included time for questions and answers, and digging deeper. It was not for motivational teachings to make one feel better. It was a time to dig deep, deal with issues, and to build solid foundations for the battles ahead.