

Are You A Believer

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 01 May 2022

Preacher: James Wengerd

[0 : 00] I greet you in the name of Jesus this morning. He is all we need. Hallelujah. And I'm going to talk about Jesus this morning.

Turn to the Gospel of John. And I have a question this morning. It's probably the title of the message.

Are you a believer? As you go through the book of John, he will ask the question over and over about believing and admonishing us to believe.

So I just want to start with, I want to skip through here. I want to read about four different sections of verses, and then we'll come back and we'll look into these further.

The first one is John 3, 16. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

[1 : 16] John 6, 28 and 29. Then said they unto him, What shall we do that we might work the works of God?

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God that ye believe on him whom he has sent. John 7, 37 to 39.

In that last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirsts, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

John 11, 40. Jesus said unto her, Said I not unto thee, That if thou wouldst believe, Thou shouldst see the glory of God.

If thou wouldst believe. Back to chapter 3. You know, Believing. Believing is what sets Believers apart and those who do not.

[2 : 36] You know, you can, You know, we heard Some of this the other day, But There's many people today That call themselves Christians.

They will profess to be a Christian. But if you would Examine their heart And examine their life, They are not really believers.

And this morning, I want to challenge us That we believe this word And that we are believers. And not only professing Christians.

And I want to start here in John chapter 3. And here in verse 16, He says, For God so loved the world.

God so loved the world. You know, Is it in Hebrews where it says, Or Peter, That Jesus is the lamb That was slain Before the foundation of the world.

[3 : 41] God had this planned. You know, When Adam fell, When Adam sinned, It did not take God by surprise.

God knew this would happen. And so He had the plan of salvation Already. Jesus was already, The plan was there for Him to come And to be that sacrifice.

God so loved, He so loved, He so loved who? Us, Each one of us, And the whole wide world. Everyone. He loved the world In pity.

In kindness. He had compassion. He had compassion. Because without, Without the shedding, Of the blood of Jesus, There would be no hope, For humanity.

And so God, Loved the world. And because He loved the world, What did He do? He gave His only, Begotten Son. He gave His Son, Jesus.

[4 : 52] Why? To be, The sacrifice, To shed, That innocent blood, For us. That we can be redeemed. That we can be set free.

Bible tells us, And Peter says, Not willing that any should perish, But that all should come to repentance. In Timothy, It says, God would have all men Be saved, And come to the knowledge of

the truth.

God is not willing that any should perish. We know that many will perish. Many have perished. But, God sent Jesus, That humanity, Does not need to perish.

That we can have eternal life. If what? If we believe. So God, So loved the world.

He, Loved the world so much, That He gave His only begotten Son. And how, How, How, How do we connect, To this forgiveness, That is available to us?

[6 : 05] We believe. And what do we mean by believing? Very simply, Very simply, Just put in that word, Trust.

Trust. Trust Jesus. Trust Jesus for salvation. Trust Him for, For every need of life. For the, For the things that we face.

For the, The hard times we go through. Trust Him. Trust Him. That whosoever, Believeth in Jesus, Should not perish, But have everlasting life.

Now I want to go back, I want to start in verse 1. There was a man of the Pharisees, Named Nicodemus, A ruler of the Jews.

The same came to Jesus by night, And said unto Him, Rabbi, We know, That thou art a teacher, Come from God. For no man can do these miracles, That thou doest, Except God be with him.

[7 : 14] You know what I see here, When I look at Nicodemus, He's, He, He, He says, We know. So he was, He was acknowledging, That he and, Some of the others, They knew, That Jesus was from God.

In other words, Nicodemus had heard, The word that Jesus spoke. And there was faith, Rising in his heart, That Jesus is the Messiah.

That Jesus is of God. And that's how it is for us. Faith cometh by hearing, And hearing by the word of God. And so we hear the word of God.

You hear it this morning. You read the word of God. You feed upon this word. And it comes into your heart. And, And, You connect that word, With faith.

And it will start building, That eternal life. So here we have Nicodemus. He couldn't figure all things out. He, But he knew that, That Jesus must be a teacher from God.

[8 : 24] Or, How else could he do these things? Jesus answered, And said unto him, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, He cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born, When he is old? Can he enter the second time, Into his mother's womb, And be born?

You know, A very legitimate question, A question that, The natural mind has, You know, Trying to figure these things out. Trying to figure out, How does this work?

How, Well, Jesus, What, How could that possibly be? Jesus answered, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, And of the spirit, He cannot enter into, The kingdom of God. That which is born, Of the flesh, Is flesh, That which is born, Of the spirit, Is spirit. Marvel not, That I said unto thee, Ye must be born again, The wind bloweth, Where it listens, And thou heareth, The sound thereof, But canst not tell, Whence it cometh, And whither it goeth, So is every one, That is born, Of the spirit.

[9 : 48] Though Jesus, Was telling him, That, You know, You, You were born naturally, But that is, What is born of the flesh, That's flesh.

But now you need, To be born of God. You need the new birth. You need to be born again. And that's what we all need, Is that new birth, To be born of God, To have that, That seed of Christ within us, Birthed within us, That it will believe, And live the godly life.

Nicodemus answered, And said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered, And said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, And knowest not these things?

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, And testify that we have seen, And ye receive not our witness, If I have told you earthly things, And ye believe not.

How shall ye believe, If I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, But he that came down from heaven, And the son, Even the son of man, Which is in heaven, And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, Even so must the son of man be lifted up, That whosoever believeth in him, Should not perish, But have eternal life.

[11 : 30] For God so loved the world, For God so loved the world, That he gave his only begotten son, That whosoever believeth in him, Should not perish, But have everlasting life.

For God sent not his son into the world, To condemn the world, But that the world through him, Might be saved. He that believeth on him, Is not condemned, But he that believeth not, Is condemned already, Because he is not believed, In the name of the only begotten son of God. And this is the condemnation, That light has come into the world, And men love darkness rather than light, Because their deeds were evil.

You know, And here Jesus, He was talking to Nicodemus, But I believe, He's talking to each one of us here today. And he explained this to Nicodemus, And you know, I believe that later on, We find that Nicodemus did believe in Christ.

You know, He was trying to figure this all out. And let me just tell you, There's, You know, When you come across something in this word, And you read it, And it just doesn't quite, This natural mind can't figure it out.

[12:49] You know, We just accept it by faith, And believe it, Because it is the word of God. We believe it, Whether we understand it or not.

And as we go on in life, And we believe it, The Holy Ghost can bring revelation, To show us the things that we need to know.

But here, He admonishes him, And he tells him, That, Whosoever believeth, Whosoever believeth, Whoever trusts in Christ, Whoever trusts that, Yes, Jesus is the Son of God.

Yes, Jesus came to die here. Yes, The sacrifice of His blood, That was sufficient for my sin.

If we believe, Then, We can be saved. If we believe, We can see the glory of God. 1 Peter says, Jesus was foreordained, It was foreordained, Before the foundation of the world, That Jesus would come, And give His life, For us.

[14:11] 1 John 4, 14, The Father sent the Son, To be the Savior, Of the world. Hallelujah. Jesus, The one, We wish to lift up His name today.

To believe is to trust. To have that personal faith, And confidence in Him, That He is sufficient, That His life, Can be, And is, My life.

So if we truly believe in Him, What will be the result? We'll look at some of that as we go along.

But believing, Is to come to Christ, In full surrender, And to lay down my life, And just give my all to Him, To just say, You know, Just take me, And make of me what you desire.

Amen. Believing is putting on Christ.

[15:48] The scripture talks about that. Let's go, Let's go to chapter 6. You know, In chapter 5, Verse 24, It says, Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, And believeth on him that sent me, Hath everlasting life, And shall not come into condemnation, But is passed from death unto life.

That's what happens when we're born again. We become a new creation in Christ Jesus. And we pass from death unto life. Now we have everlasting life.

Everlasting life. The life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now let's start again here. We read here in chapter 6, Verse 28 and 29.

Let's read verse 27. He says, Labor not for the meat which perishes, But for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, Which the Son of Man shall give unto you, For him hath God the Father sealed.

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, That we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, That ye believe on him whom he has sent.

[17:39] So these people, They wanted to do the works of God. And they just asked the question, Jesus, What shall we do?

What can we work? What shall we work? That we will work the works of God. And Jesus answered. And his answer is probably too simple for many people today.

But he said, This is the work of God, That ye believe on him whom he has sent. And let me tell you, I believe that if we truly believe in Jesus, Then it will, It's not just this little statement, That he made right here.

But it is our whole life. It is all of life. It will change our life. And he will direct our life. But it's the only way.

It's the only way. That our lives will be effective for him. You know, in verse 63, he says, It is the spirit that quickeneth.

[18:53] The flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you, They are spirit, And they are life. The spirit.

The spirit is life. What comes of our flesh, Profits nothing. But what is of the spirit of God, That brings life.

Now I want to continue reading here. Verse 30. They said therefore unto him, What sign showest thou then, That we may see and believe?

What doest thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert, As it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

So now they want a sign. Jesus, how do we know? How do we know what you're saying? And what you're saying is true. Our fathers, they ate manna in the desert.

[19 : 53] Moses was this great leader, This great man of God. And he fed us with, He fed our fathers with manna. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven, But my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, And giveth life unto the world. Jesus, what he's saying here, Is that he is the bread of heaven.

The manna, it came from heaven. God sent it for the children of Israel. But it's a type of Jesus. It was a type of Christ.

And now Christ has come. He is the true bread of God. I came down from heaven. Then said they unto him, Lord evermore, give us this bread.

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life. He that cometh to me shall never hunger. He that believeth on me shall never thirst.

[21 : 06] But I said unto you that ye also have seen me, And believe not. So here he challenges them again, You have seen me. And I might say, You have heard me talk, And speak, And teach, And you believe not.

He's just telling them how it is. You've seen me. I'm here. I'm the bread come down from heaven, And you don't believe me. Verse 37, All that the Father giveth me shall come to me.

And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, Not to do mine own will, But the will of him that sent me.

And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, That of all which he hath given me, I should lose nothing, But should raise it up again at the last day.

And this is the will of him that sent me, That everyone which seeth the Son, And believeth on him, May have everlasting life, And I will raise him up at the last day.

[22 : 23] There it is again. He that believeth on Jesus, Will have everlasting life. And on later in this chapter, Just a few verses down, He challenges them.

He says, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers, They ate the man in the wilderness that we talked about, But they're dead.

But now, This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, That a man may eat thereof and not die. I am the living bread. Jesus is the living bread, And he came to give his life a ransom for many. He came to give his life, That we can have eternal life. Now notice verse 53, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, And drink his blood, Ye have no life in you.

Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, Hath eternal life, And I will raise him up at the last day. And, you know, Many, Many people turned away from him then.

[23 : 38] But let's just read a few more verses. It says, For my flesh is meat indeed, And my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, And drinketh my blood, Dwelleth in me, And I in him.

As the living Father has sent me, And I live by the Father, So he that eateth me, Even he shall live by me. We will live by this word, By the word of God, By this book, That we have here so freely, That it is so precious.

It is the word of God. This is the bread, Which came down from heaven, Not as your fathers did eat manna, And are dead.

He that eateth of this bread, Shall live forever. And then, Many, Of his disciples, They said, This is a hard saying.

Who can hear it? And many of them left. Many of them, Walked away that day. You know, Why did they walk away?

[24 : 50] Because, It didn't make sense. Because, They didn't understand. And let me, Challenge you again. If there is something, We don't understand.

Let's accept it by faith. Let's accept it by faith. And not walk away. Not walk away. Believing. Believing. Is eating of him. Drinking of him. Eating. Receiving his life.

Receiving his life. And, And everything that he has for us. Laying down our own life. And taking in his life.

That we have his life. His spirit flowing through us. Let's go on.

[25 : 52] To the next one. John 7. I read verse 37 and 8.

But let's start. Start verse 32.

The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him. The Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him.

You know, The Pharisees and the chief priests, They just couldn't accept the fact that the people were listening to Jesus.

And that they were following him. And so, What does it say here? They sent officers to take him. All right, Let's read what happens here.

[26 : 50] Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you. Then I go unto him that sent me. Ye shall seek me and shall not find me.

And where I am, Thither ye cannot come. You know, And this, I'm sure this refers to Christ having ascended to the Father.

But let's look at this A little bit closer. There's a word here. And it's not just once, But it's a couple times it is used.

And he says, Where I am, Thither ye cannot come. Where I am. Jesus was not saying, Just where I am going, You cannot come.

But he was saying, Where I am now, You cannot come. What's he saying? What's he saying? Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go that we shall not find him?

[28 : 01] Will he go to the Gentiles? Or to the dispersed among the Gentiles? What manner of saying is this, That he said, Ye shall seek me, And shall not find me.

And where I am, Thither ye cannot come. In the last day, That great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, Saying, If any man thirsts, Let him come unto me and drink.

He that believeth on me, As the scripture has said, Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. So we have Jesus saying, Where I am, You cannot come.

But then he invites us to come to him. He invites us to come. He says, If any man thirsts, Let him come unto me and drink. What's he saying?

He's saying, The only way to Christ is through the new creature. Through the new creation.

[29 : 07] Through the spirit. Through the spirit man. The new life in him. And he says, If you thirst, You are welcome to come. You come unto me.

Come unto me and drink. Come unto me and drink. He that believeth. There's that word believeth again. If we believe in Jesus, As the scripture has said, Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

And he doesn't leave this for us to guess about. But this spake he of the spirit, Which they that believe on him should receive.

For the Holy Ghost was not yet given, Because Jesus was not yet glorified. But, If we thirst, We can come to him.

And we can find him. We can come to him. The invitation is there. Come unto me. Come unto me, All ye that labor and are heavy laden.

[30 : 10] And I will give you rest. Come unto me and drink. And be filled. Be filled with the Holy Ghost. And there will be rivers of living water flowing from you.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. It is the spirit that quickeneth. The flesh profiteth nothing.

To drink. He said you cannot come where I am. Jesus is. He said you cannot come where I am.

But if we drink, we can come to where he is. Hallelujah. We cannot come unless we're born of God and baptized of the Holy Spirit.

Into what? And I have a quote here. Into his holiness. Into his peace and into his power. We cannot come unless we forsake our own thoughts and ways and yield ourselves entirely in obedience to his word and will.

[31 : 25] Hallelujah. You know, the exchanged life. We have nothing to offer him. But he has so much for us.

Hallelujah. If any thirst to drink is to receive of his fullness. Which alone can satisfy when we believe on him as he believed on his father.

You know, can we just think of that a moment. If we believe believe on Jesus in the same way that Jesus believed on his father.

Hallelujah. Then from within us as from him there will flow rivers of living water because the Holy Spirit will have free access to our innermost being.

That life, that innermost life within us and full control of our being. You know, this is an awesome, awesome thought.

[32 : 45] Thank you. Jesus there you■■■ that you know, Jesus said, I do nothing unless the father do it.

I can do nothing unless the father is doing it. Without the father, Jesus did nothing. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. How do it? Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. he that believeth on me as the scripture has said out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water why because we will drink of that living fountain and a fountain flows and when we drink of that fountain it will flow out from us out to a lost and a dying world Amen Amen Now Let's go again to chapter 11 Here we have the account of Lazarus And I want to start

Let's start in 39 But before I read 39 Let's read verse 25 I am the resurrection and the life He that believeth in me Though he were dead Yet shall he live And whosoever liveth and believeth in me Shall never die Believeth thou this Do we believe today That we have eternal life We can have eternal life Yes Well Jesus came to the grave And you know They told him Oh if you would have just been here You know He's four days in the grave now But if you would have just come before he died We know he would not have died You would have healed him Jesus But you're too late You're too late Let me tell you When it seems he's too late Don't give up Don't give up Don't give up Don't give up Don't give up Don't give up Don't give up Don't give up Verse 34 And he said Where have you laid him?

[35 : 45] They said unto him Lord come and see Jesus wept Then said the Jews Behold how he loved him Some of them said Could not this man Which opened the eyes Of the blind Have caused That even this man Should not have died Jesus therefore again Groaning in himself Cometh to the grave It was a cave And a stone lay upon it Jesus said Take ye away the stone Martha the sister of him That was dead Said unto him Lord by this time He stinketh For he hath been dead Four days Jesus saith unto her Said I not unto thee That if thou wouldst believe Thou shouldst see The glory of God Then they took away The stone from the place Where the dead was laid And Jesus lifted up his eyes And said Father I thank thee That thou hast heard me And I knew that thou

Hearst me always But because of the people Which stand by I said it That they may believe That thou hast sent me And when he thus had spoken He cried with a loud voice Lazarus come forth And he that was dead Came forth Bound hand and foot With grave clothes And his face was bound About with a napkin Jesus saith unto them Loose him And let him go You know Jesus What did he say here He said If thou wouldst believe Thou shouldst see The glory of God If you would believe But there was something In the way There was something In the way Here was the tomb And there was this big stone Over the tomb It was sealed It was shut It was closed That stone of unbelief You have to roll it away If you will see The power of God If you will see The power of Jesus The power of the Holy Ghost Move You must roll away That stone of unbelief You must roll away That stone of human reasoning You must roll away That stone of anything That is standing in the way You know Jesus He came into his own town And he taught there But the Bible tells us That he could not do Many miracles there He did no great works there Save that he healed A few sick folk Why?

Because They looked at him As the son of Joseph They looked at him And they just explained it away That he is not the Messiah But he is the son of Joseph That human reasoning Took over And if we will see The glory of God If we will live for him If we will be effective In his kingdom We must roll away The stone of human reasoning That stone that says He has been dead four days It has got to go That stone that sealed him in That stone of unbelief Oh we can't move that stone By now he stinketh He has been dead four days Jesus you were four days Five days too late No Jesus was right on time Right on time Hallelujah Hallelujah Verse 42

Jesus Praying He says I knew that thou hearest me always Jesus Believe That the Father heard him Do we believe That our prayers are heard Do we believe In our Lord Jesus Christ Do we believe In the Holy Ghost Do we believe In that river That wants to flow through us We can deal with the unbelief If we can deal with the human reasoning That carnal mind Trying to argue against

God If we can deal with that The power of God can be manifest If thou wouldst believe Whatever is hindering us from believing It needs to go It needs to be dealt with It needs to be put on the cross Do we believe

[40 : 38] Do we believe Amen In Matthew The disciples They failed There is an account Where This man brought his son To the disciples And they couldn't heal him And then When Jesus came He brought him to Jesus And Jesus And Jesus Just pointed out To them You know He healed

This young man The disciples Later They asked him Why could not We cast him out Jesus said Unto them Because of your Unbelief For verily I say unto you If ye have faith As a grain of mustard seed You shall say unto this mountain Remove hence to yonder place And it shall remove And nothing shall be impossible Unto you How be it this kind Goeth not out But by prayer And fasting Because of unbelief The disciples failed that day I believe I believe many times The answer fails us Because of unbelief I believe that many times We fall short Because of unbelief

Unbelief If we If we Can believe in Jesus As the scripture has said Oh That river will flow That river will flow Hallelujah Do we believe Do we trust Jesus We sing that song Only trust him Only trust him Only trust him now You know Do we trust him For salvation Do we trust him With our life Do we trust him For all of life Let's go To the next chapter In John John chapter 12 John chapter 12 Verse 23 And Jesus answered them Saying The hour is come That the son of man Should be glorified Verily verily

I say unto you Except a corn of wheat Fall into the ground And die It abideth alone But if it die It bringeth forth Much fruit He that loveth his life Shall lose it He that hateth his life In this world Shall keep it Unto life eternal If any man serve me Let him follow me And where I am There shall also My servant be If any man serve me Him will my father honor Alright Let's look at this Verse 24 Except the corn of wheat Fall into the ground And die It abideth alone You know You can You can take that seed The farmer can take a seed You can take the seed You put in your garden And if you decide If you decide To eat it instead Then you won't have a crop But if you take that seed And you plant it And you plant it in the ground What's going to happen With that seed It's going to die It will have to die That a new plant Can arise And it's the same way With us We have to lay down Our life That that new life In Christ Can arise Within us To the glory Of God the Father That that river of life Can flow through us That we can be fruitful For him We have been talking About believing And trusting him Can you trust him With your life Can you trust him To the point Of laying down Your life Do we trust him Enough To give him Our life And allow him To take it And to change us And to make us [45 : 41] Into the man Into the woman He wants us to be He says If He that loveth his life Shall lose it He that hateth his life In this world Shall keep it And a life eternal If we will lay down Our life If we will lay down Our life We will have Eternal life Notice what he says here If any man serve me Let him follow me And where I am There shall also My servant be There it is again Where I am Where Jesus is Where he is In holiness In righteousness

In purity In power Full of the Holy Ghost Where Jesus is He wants us To be there also If we will thirst And come to him And drink We lay down Our life If we lay down Our life He will give us Life We can be like That verse In Isaiah It says Thou shalt be like A water garden And like a spring Of water Whose waters Fail not What a promise What a word Like a watered garden A garden That is watered

And the weeds Is pulled out of it And all the good seed Is planted in this garden And it's taken care of And it's watered It grows And it's fruitful Thou shalt be like A watered garden And like a spring Of water You know A spring You know If you have A jug of water This water It will soon Be all gone But if you have A spring of water You can't stop it It will just Keep on flowing That's how He wants us To be That's how He wants us To be Like a spring Of water Whose waters Fail not Even in drought Even in the Year of drought Even in Adversity Even in the Hard times It will not Fail But it will Continue to flow

A river Of living Water A river Of living Water Oh my If we can Believe We will see The glory Of God Hallelujah Hallelujah Let's pray Lord we thank You Lord we thank You We praise Your name Today Lord help us To believe To the glory Of God The Father Help us To drink Lord Might we Drink Of that water That you Give us That we can Be where you Are Hallelujah Yes Lord That that river Will flow Through us Yes Lord A stream That will not Stop A stream

That will not Be quenched A stream Of living Water That will Water Those round About us Oh Lord Might it be That way We pray In Jesus Name Amen