

John 10:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

Analysis

But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him (εἰ δὲ ποιῶ, καὶν ἔμοὶ μὴ πιστεύητε, τοῖς ἔργοις πιστεύετε, ἵνα γνῶτε καὶ γινώσκητε ὅτι ἐν ἔμοὶ ὁ πατὴρ κάγῳ ἐν τῷ πατρί, ei de poio, kan emoi mē pisteuēte, tois ergois pisteuete, hina gnōte kai ginōskēte hoti en emoi ho patēr kagō en tō patri)—Jesus offers a minimal faith: even if they can't believe His person yet, believe His works' testimony. The goal is ἵνα γνῶτε καὶ γινώσκητε (hina gnōte kai ginōskēte, 'that you may know and keep knowing')—progressive understanding leading to settled conviction. **The Father is in me, and I in him** expresses mutual indwelling—the perichoretic relationship within the Trinity.

This verse demonstrates God's patience with honest doubters: start with evidence, move toward understanding, arrive at faith. The works point beyond themselves to the Person. Jesus's claim of mutual indwelling with the Father restates His deity in slightly different terms—He and the Father share divine essence (John 10:30).

Historical Context

This appeal to 'believe the works' echoes Jesus's earlier challenge to the Jews: 'Search the scriptures...they are they which testify of me' (John 5:39). God provides multiple avenues to faith—Scripture, miracles, fulfilled prophecy, Jesus's teaching—removing excuse for unbelief while respecting human will.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God graciously provide multiple paths to faith (works, Scripture, teaching) for those genuinely seeking truth?
2. What's the progression from believing Jesus's works to believing His person to understanding His unity with the Father?
3. How can Christians use Jesus's model—pointing to evidence that leads to personal encounter—in evangelism?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	δὲ	ποιῶ	κἀν	ἐμοὶ	μὴ	πιστεύσητε	τοῖς	ἔργοις
if	But	I do	though	me	not	believe	G3588	the works
G1487	G1161	G4160	G2579	G1698	G3361	G4100		G2041

πιστεύσητε	ἵνα	γνῶτε	καὶ	πιστεύσητε	ὅτι	ἐν	ἐμοὶ
believe	that	ye may know	and	believe	that	in	me
G4100	G2443	G1097	G2532	G4100	G3754	G1722	G1698

ο	πατὴρ	κἀγὼ	ἐν	αὐτῷ
G3588	the Father	and I	in	him
	G3962	G2504	G1722	G846

Additional Cross-References

John 14:20 (Parallel theme): At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

John 10:25 (Faith): Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

John 10:30 (Parallel theme): I and my Father are one.

Acts 2:22 (Parallel theme): Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

John 3:2 (Parallel theme): 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.

John 5:36 (Parallel theme): But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

John 17:11 (Parallel theme): And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.