

John 16:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

Analysis

Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe? (ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς Ἰησοῦς Ἄρτι πιστεύετε;)—Jesus's question is both gentle and probing. The adverb "now" (ἄρτι) can mean "just now" or "at this moment," with a hint of irony—"So now you believe?" Their confident confession (v.30) will be tested within hours. The present tense "believe" (πιστεύετε) might imply ongoing faith, yet Jesus knows it will momentarily falter.

This isn't doubt about their salvation but pastoral realism about immature faith. They believe truly but not yet deeply. The crucifixion will shatter their expectations and scatter them (v.32), yet post-resurrection faith will be stronger, grounded not in their understanding but in the risen Christ and the Spirit's power.

Historical Context

This brief, pointed question reflects Jesus's role as the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep (John 10:14). He doesn't crush their fragile faith but prepares them for impending failure and subsequent restoration. Peter's denials, Thomas's doubts, and the disciples' fear behind locked doors (John 20:19) all confirm Jesus's gentle warning here. Yet all were eventually restored—Peter most explicitly (John 21:15-19).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's question challenge superficial or untested faith that hasn't yet faced trials?
2. What's the difference between intellectual assent to Christ's identity and faith that endures suffering and disappointment?
3. How does Jesus's patient questioning here model pastoral care for believers with weak or immature faith?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη	αὐτοῖς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ἄρτι	πιστεύετε
answered	them	G3588	Jesus	now	Do ye
G611	G846		G2424	G737	G4100

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org