

# John 16:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

## Analysis

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**Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?** (ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς Ἰησοῦς Ἐρτι πιστεύετε;)—Jesus's question is both gentle and probing. The adverb "now" (αὐτί/ ἐρτι) 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

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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

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**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

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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

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ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς Ἐρτι πιστεύετε

**answered**

G611

**them**

G846

G3588

**Jesus**

G2424

**now**

G737

**Do ye**

G4100

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