

John 8:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

Analysis

Continuing in Christ's word distinguishes genuine disciples from false professors. The conditional 'if ye continue' doesn't suggest works-based salvation but evidential proof—true faith perseveres. 'My word' emphasizes obedience to Christ's teaching, not mere intellectual agreement. This verse introduces the freedom theme (v. 32, 36), showing that discipleship brings liberation, not bondage.

Historical Context

Many Jews believed based on Christ's signs (v. 30) but would soon turn away, proving shallow faith. Jesus warns that genuine discipleship requires continual abiding in His teaching, not emotional responses to miracles.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What evidence exists in your life that you are 'continuing' in Christ's word?

2. How does faithful Bible study and obedience distinguish true disciples from mere admirers?

Interlinear Text

Ἐλεγεν οὖν τῷ Ἰησοῦς πρὸς τῷ πεπιστευκότας αὐτῷ
 said Then which Jesus to which believed on him
 G3004 G3767 G3588 G2424 G4314 G3588 G4100 G846

Ιουδαίους Ἐὰν ὑμεῖς μείνητε ἐν τῷ λόγῳ τῷ ἐμῷ
 those Jews If ye continue in which word which my
 G2453 G1437 G5210 G3306 G1722 G3588 G3056 G3588 G1699

ἀληθῶς μαθηταί μού ἐστε
 indeed disciples my then are ye
 G230 G3101 G3450 G2075

Additional Cross-References

2 John 1:9 (Parallel theme): Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

2 Timothy 3:14 (Parallel theme): But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

1 Timothy 4:16 (Parallel theme): Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

James 1:25 (Word): But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Colossians 1:23 (Faith): If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

1 Samuel 12:14 (Word): If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:

Hebrews 3:14 (Parallel theme): For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Romans 2:7 (Parallel theme): To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Romans 11:22 (Parallel theme): Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Acts 14:22 (Faith): Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

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