

Does Believing in Jesus Differ from Believing What He Said?

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INTRODUCTION

STATISTICS IN JOHN

Pisteuō (believe, entrust) appears 100 times in the Majority Text of John (98 in Nestle). This paper will henceforth only consider the Majority Text, but the appendix shows where that text differs with either the critical text or the *Textus Receptus*.

We will not consider the unusual construction that yields the translation *entrust* (Luke 16:11; John 2:24; Rom 3:2; 1 Cor 9:17; Gal 2:7; 1 Thess 2:4; 1 Tim 1:11; Tit 1:3), rather than *believe*. Our focus is on the concept of believing, not on entrusting something to someone. That idea is distinct from believing and it employs unique Greek constructions.

The remaining 99 uses in John [see the appendix] belong to four broad categories of objects with some subcategories:

1. Unstated object (e.g., John 1:7, “believe _____.”)
2. Personal object:
 - a. Personal object + *eis* (e.g., John 2:11, “believe in Him.”)
 - b. Personal object in dative case (e.g., John 5:38, “believe Him.”)
3. Content object:
 - a. Content object in accusative case (e.g., John 11:26b, “believe this.”)
 - b. Content object in dative case (e.g., John 2:22, “believe the Scripture.”)
 - c. Content object + *hoti* (e.g., Jn 6:69, “believe that You are the Christ.”)
4. Double object: Personal object [with dative case] plus content object [with *hoti*] (e.g., John 4:21, “believe Me [that] the hour is coming...”)

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?

I believe in my doctor.

I believe my doctor.

I believe that my doctor’s medical advice is beneficial to my health.

I believe my doctor that I should follow his/her medical advice.

ANALYSIS OF THE OBJECT IN JOHN 5:24

...he who ... believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Does John 5:24 express a saving proposition?

How do we explain "believe in the Father," not "believe in Jesus"?

ANALYSIS OF THE DOUBLE OBJECT IN JOHN 4:21

...believe Me, [that] the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

ANALYSIS OF THE DOUBLE OBJECT IN JOHN 14:11A

Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me...

ANALYSIS OF JOHN 11:25-27

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who [1] believes in Me [eis eme], though he may die, he shall live.

²⁶ "And whoever lives and [2] believes in Me [eis eme] shall never die. Do you [3] believe this?"

²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I [4] believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

CONCLUSION