

# Believe And Depart Not

## Introduction

### 1 Timothy 4:1–6 (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

<sup>2</sup> speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

<sup>3</sup> forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

<sup>4</sup> For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

<sup>5</sup> for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

<sup>6</sup> If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these *things*, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

In Paul's letters to Timothy, he is teaching Timothy on what it takes to be a good minister of Jesus Christ. Some of these lessons involve warnings to Timothy; things to know and watch out for with the flock he is to be entrusted with.

It should be common knowledge that the believers in the beginnings of the church that Jesus built, faced much persecution and sufferings for their faith in Jesus. As you read through the epistles you find words encouraging the believers of that day, and therefore our day, also, to remain true to the faith that saved them. They were to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

There were those, however, who in the face of these hardships believers were subjected to, that were turning away from the faith. They were choosing to give up on the faith so that they would no longer have to endure the sufferings of Christ. These were certainly tough times, but believers were told to go through these tough times, that they may reap the rewards afterwards for their belief.

## The Wrong Way

When we are saved by believing on Jesus and His Gospel, we become new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). We are saved when we believe on Jesus. John chapter 3 specifically states this.

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## **John 3:14–16 (KJV)**

<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, *even* so must the Son of man be lifted up:

<sup>15</sup> that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

So, we see our eternal life is based on our belief in Jesus. In fact, when we believe in Jesus, we are saved from the wrath of God to come.

## **John 3:36 (KJV)**

<sup>36</sup> He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Despite this, we are told in Scripture that there will be those who will depart from the faith. The faith meaning belief in Jesus for our salvation.

## **1 Timothy 4:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

We read this a bit earlier in Paul's letter to Timothy. Notice the word Spirit used here is spelled with a capital S, not a small s. This means it is God, the Holy Spirit, who is EXPRESSLY stating this. To disagree with the statement made is to disagree with God Himself.

So, when are these latter times being spoken of? We see in Hebrews chapter 1 that the author tells us when these latter times are.

## **Hebrews 1:1–2 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

<sup>2</sup> hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all *things*, by whom also he made the worlds;

So, if the author of Hebrews knew the last days, or latter days, were during his time, they are still in our time and even later in the latter days. These are the latter days, so in the days that Hebrews was written, between 60 – 69AD, and our present time, there will be some who depart from the faith. A sad fact, yet true.

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Jesus spoke of people who would stop believing, also. Let's look at Luke 8:5 – 15. This is also recorded in Matthew 13:1 - 9,18 - 23 and Mark 4:1 - 9,14 – 20.

## **Luke 8:5–15 (KJV)**

<sup>5</sup> A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

<sup>6</sup> And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because *it* lacked moisture.

<sup>7</sup> And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with *it*, and choked it.

<sup>8</sup> And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he said these *things*, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

<sup>9</sup> And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?

<sup>10</sup> And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

<sup>11</sup> Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

<sup>12</sup> Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

<sup>13</sup> They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

<sup>14</sup> And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go *forth*, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

<sup>15</sup> But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

So, we see from Jesus' explanation of the parable, the people we are looking at are those who are described as the rock. They receive the word with joy and believe for a while, but when temptation comes along, they fall away from the word of God. They stop believing.

The word temptation used here is speaking of having one's faith tested by trials and tribulations. Remember, we are to endure these things as Christians, but these are the people who depart from the faith. They are denying Christ and going back to the world, even after believing for a while.

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## The Right Way

As Christians, we seek God's word on the matter. What must I do to be saved?! This is what the jailer asked of Paul and Silas in the prison when they could have escaped.

### Acts 16:30–31 (KJV)

<sup>30</sup> and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

<sup>31</sup> And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

We, as believers, need to work our hearts such that our hearts are like the good soil spoken of by Jesus.

### Luke 8:15 (KJV)

<sup>15</sup> But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Notice how this includes patience. Let's look at what is written in James.

### James 1:2–4 (KJV)

<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count *it* all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

<sup>3</sup> knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

<sup>4</sup> But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Patience comes about and is strengthened by the trying of our faith. We must not give up amid divers temptations, though. For we are to let patience have her perfect work. Our faith is tried by temptations, otherwise known as trials. Persecution can be included in this, also. Anything that is trying our faith, will we continue to believe or not, is temptation. James tells us this is a good thing! We are to count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations. If you count if for joy, you will not depart from that faith, but will allow your faith to be tried, that you may be perfect, or complete, and wanting nothing.

## A Final Word

I will close out this short message on the importance of believing in Jesus and not departing from the faith with the following quote from Hebrews.

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## Hebrews 10:35–39 (KJV)

<sup>35</sup> Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

<sup>36</sup> For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

<sup>37</sup> For yet a little while, *and* he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

<sup>38</sup> Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

<sup>39</sup> But we are not of *them* who draw back unto perdition; but of *them* that believe to the saving of the soul.