

John 3:36

36 He that believeth <4100> on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not <544> the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

4100 πιστευω pisteuo {pist-yoo'-o}

from 4102; TDNT - 6:174,849; v

AV - believe 239, commit unto 4, commit to (one's) trust 1, be committed unto 1, be put in trust with 1, be commit to one's trust 1, believer 1; 248

544 απειθεω apeitheo {ap-i-theh'-o}

from 545; TDNT - 6:10,818; v

AV - believe not 8, disobedient 4, obey not 3, unbelieving 1; 16

This verse appears to be contrasting “believeth” with “believeth not.” But, from Strong’s concordance, we see that it is actually contrasting “being committed to trust” with “disobedience.” Hence this is an example of what I call “believe” = “obey.” This same equivalence (by contrast) shows up several places in the NT.

It is also useful to look at the wording for this verse in *The Scriptures*.

John 8:30-31

30 As he spake these words, many believed <4100> on him.

31 ¶ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed <4100> on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

Notice that those Jews who believed (Strong’s #4100 again) were also those who obeyed his word. (i.e., “believe” = “obey”)

Unfortunately, as we see in verse 37, there were some about whom he said “...my word hath no place in you.” (i.e., some were disobedient)

Hebrews 3:19-19

18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not <544>?

19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief <570>.

570 απιστια apistia {ap-is-tee'-ah}

from 571; TDNT - 6:174,849; n f

AV - unbelief 12; 12

These verses say that those who “believed not” could not enter in because of their “unbelief.” But in fact, we all know that the reason they didn’t get to enter in was because they disobeyed! (Hence, “believe” = “obey” once again) In spite of the English word “believe” the actual subject here is “disobedience.”

Hebrews 4:1-3

- 1 ¶ Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.
- 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.
- 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

This is another case where the KJV translators rendered the Greek word as “believe” when, in fact, these verses are referring to the OT story involving whether or not the Israelites were going to “obey.”

1 Peter 2:7-8

- 7 Unto you therefore which believe <4100> he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient <544>, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,
- 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient <544>: whereunto also they were appointed.

Notice that these verses are contrasting the concepts of “believe” (#4100) with “disobedience.” Once again this shows that the Greek word which got translated into “believe” actually involves some component of obedience as well as just the intellectual process of agreeing with something that someone said.

Jude 5

- 5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed <4100> not <3361>.

Here again, the Greek word #4100 is translated as “believed not” when the context shows that it was actually a case of “obeyed not.”

Romans 4:3

- 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed <4100> God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

As we all know, what Abraham actually did was “OBEY”. This involved far more than just the thing that we usually mean by the English word “believed.” Whatever Abraham did that KJV translated as “believed” was, according to the context, actually acts of righteousness. He DID something – far more than just believing something!

Galatians 3:6

6 ¶ Even as Abraham believed <4100> God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Again, it says Abraham “believed” when the OT shows that what Abraham did was “obey.” (i.e., “believe” = “obey”)

James 2:23

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed <4100> God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Same thing again. The English translation says Abraham “believed” but we know that what Abraham actually did was to “obey.”

So I think that the Greek word #4100 should not have been translated as “believed.” Strong’s #4100 should probably be translated more like “committed one’s self totally and completely and to the point of total obedience and subservience.”