

Saving Faith According to the Greek New Testament

I have chosen to provide the reader the Scriptural passages that focus on the verb “believing” and its parallel expressions “coming,” “eating and drinking,” “feeding,” and “following,” from translations provided by a Greek-English Interlinear or a Literal Translation of the Greek New Testament. These are the resources I will be using:

MYLT = *Modern Young’s Literal Translation*
by Allen K. LeClaire, 2005

MYLT is a modern update of *Young’s Literal Translation* produced by Robert Young in 1862, revised in 1887, and in 1898. The Greek text follows the *Textus Receptus* from which we get the KJV and NKJV. I choose the MYLT over the YLT because they replaced the archaic language (thee, thou, hast, etc.) with modern words, and moved words around in the sentence to improve readability. I used the translation provided at www.ao-soft.com/mylt/index.htm.

KJ3LT = *King James 3 Literal Translation of the Holy Bible*
Translation by Jay P. Green Sr., 2005 Edition

This is a revised edition of Green’s 1986 Hebrew-English-Greek work called *The Interlinear Bible*. The Greek text follows the *Textus Receptus*. I used the translation provided by www.sgpbooks.com/bibles/LiteralPages.htm.

NKJVGE = *The NKJV Greek English Interlinear New Testament*
Translators: Arthur L. Farstad, Zane C. Hodges, C. Michael Moss,
Robert E. Picirilli, Wilber N. Pickering, 1985, 1994

This translation follows the Majority Text.

NGEINT = *The New Greek-English Interlinear New Testament*
Translators: Robert K. Brown and Philip W. Comfort, 1990

The Greek text follows the 1993 Critical Text of the Greek New Testament, Fourth Edition, by the United Bible Societies.

ALT = *Analytical-Literal Translation of the New Testament of the Holy Bible*, 2nd Edition
Translation by Gary F. Zeolla, 2005

This translation was based on the 2nd edition of the Byzantine Majority Text. See www.dtl.org to purchase the book or an inexpensive downloadable version. The ALT has a 3rd ed. that is out.

FNT = *Faithful New Testament*
Translation by William Wilde Zeitler, 2007

This literal translation can be downloaded at www.faithfulbible.com. As to which text he uses he says: “I subscribe to the view that the best choice of text is that supported by the broadest base of early sources” (Preface, xi).¹

Since Literal Translations and Interlinears have minor differences between them, I did not feel that it was necessary to quote from all the available resources to make this point—the New Testament writers consistently communicate that being in a saving union with Christ (John 6:56), which culminates in being resurrected to everlasting life with Christ (John 6:40, 54) in the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21–22), is *conditional* upon a living and persevering faith in Christ.

With a few exceptions,² the first translation quoted will be from either the NKJVGE, MYLT, or KJ3LT since they are respected translations in the King James tradition. At times I felt that it would be helpful to provide the reader with the verses that come before and after the primary passage needing to be highlighted. I will do this in the first translation only.

The second translation will always be from the NGEINT since it is a highly respected reference work and is based on the Greek text used in several contemporary versions.

The last translation will be from either the FNT³ or ALT since they are excellent resources that are free (FNT) or inexpensive to obtain (ALT).

¹ For more information on this see his Preface, “The Underlying Text,” p. ix-xi.

² The exceptions are John 6:29; 12:36; and 14:1. The NKJVGE, MYLT, and the KJ3LT do not bring out the present tense verbs like the ALT or FNT do in these passages.

³ It needs to be noted that Zeitler adds qualifying terms in his translation that I have chosen not to include in this paper. For example, John 3:16 reads in the FNT: “For God thus agape-loved the world: so that he gave his uniquely-begotten son, so that everyone believing in him not perish but be having eternal zoe-life.” Each of these words with a (-) have a footnote attached to them for further explanation. I did not think it was necessary for my purposes to include these for the reader. Nevertheless, I do encourage readers to visit his website and download this fine translation with its qualifying terms and footnotes.

John 1:12

There was a man having been sent from God, the name to him was John. 7 This man came for a testimony, so that he might testify about the Light, so that all people might believe through him. 8 That man was not the Light but was sent so that he might testify about the Light. 9 He was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world through Him came to be, and the world did not know Him. 11 To his own things He came, and His own people did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, He gave to them the right to become children of God, to the ones believing in His name; 13 who not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God were born. (NKJVGE)

But as many as received him, he gave to them [the] right children of God to come, to the ones believing in the name of him. (NGEINT)

But as many as received Him, He gave to them authority to become children of God—to the ones believing [or, trusting] in His name. (ALT)

John 3:15, 16

“And even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that everyone believing into Him should not perish, but may have everlasting life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone believing into Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (KJ3LT)

“. . . That everyone believing in him may have life eternal. For thus loved God the world, that the Son, the unique one, he gave, that everyone believing in him may not perish but have life eternal.” (NGEINT)

“. . . so that every [one] believing [or, trusting] in Him shall not perish, but shall be having eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten [or, unique] Son, so that every [one] believing [or, trusting] in Him shall not perish, but shall be having eternal life!” (ALT)

John 3:18

“For God did not send His Son into the world that He might judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 The one believing into Him is not condemned; but the one not believing has already been condemned, for he has not believed into the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (KJ3LT)

“The one believing in him is not judged; but the one not believing already has been judged, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” (NGEINT)

“The one believing [or, trusting] in Him is not judged, but the one not believing already has been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten [or, unique] Son of God.” (ALT)

John 3:36

The *one* believing into the Son has everlasting life; but the *one* disobeying the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (KJ3LT)

The one believing in the Son has life eternal; but the one disobeying the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (NGEINT)

The [one] believing in the son has eternal life, but the [one] disobeying the son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. (FNT)

John 5:24

“Amen Amen I say to you that the *one* hearing My word and believing in the *One* having sent Me, has eternal life, and into judgment does not come but he has passed out of death into life.” (NKJVGE)

“Truly, truly I say to you that the one the word of me hearing and believing the one having sent me has life eternal and into judgment he does not come, but has been transferred out of death into life.” (NGEINT)

“Truly truly I say to you that the [one] hearing my word and believing the [one] having sent me has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but is moved out of death into life.” (FNT)

John 6:29

Jesus answered them and said, “Most positively, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves of bread and were satisfied. 27 Stop working [for] the food that perishes by itself, but [be working for] the food that remains to eternal life, which the Son of Humanity will give to you, for God the Father has set [His] seal [on] Him.” 28 Therefore, they said to Him, “What shall we be doing so that we shall be working the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you be believing [or, trusting] in Him whom that One sent.” (ALT)

John 6:35, 37b

And Jesus said to them, “I am the Bread of life; the *one* coming to Me will not hunger, not *ever*; and the *one* believing into Me will not thirst, not *ever*. 36 But I said to you that you also have seen Me and do not believe. 37 All who the Father gives to Me shall come to Me, and the *one* coming to Me I will not cast out, not *ever*.” (KJ3LT)

Said to them Jesus, “I am the bread of life; the one coming to me never hungers, and the one believing in me will never thirst again. . . . and the one coming to me I will never throw out.” (NGEINT)

Jesus said to them: “I am the bread of life; the [one] coming to me will not hunger, and the [one] believing in me will not thirst ever. . . . and the [one] coming to me I will not cast out.” (FNT)

John 6:40

“For I have come down out of Heaven, not that I should do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 And this is the will of the Father sending Me, that of all that He has given Me, I shall not lose *any* of it, but shall raise it up in the last day. 40 And this is the will of the *One* having sent Me, that everyone seeing the Son and believing into Him should have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (KJ3LT)

“For this is the will of the Father of me, that every seeing the Son and believing in him may have life eternal, and I will raise up him on the last day.” (NGEINT)

“And this is the will of the One having sent me, that every [one] looking on the Son and believing [or, trusting] in Him shall be having eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” (ALT)

John 6:47

“Truly, truly, I say to you, The *one* believing into Me has everlasting life.” (KJ3LT)

“Truly, truly I say to you, the one believing has life eternal.” (NGEINT)

“Truly truly I say to you, the [one] believing has eternal life.” (FNT)

John 6:54, 56, 57, 58

“I am the Bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and died. 50 This is the Bread, the *One* coming down out of Heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the Living Bread, the *One* having come down from Heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live to the age. And indeed the bread which I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” 52 Therefore the Jews argued with one another, saying, “How can this *One* give us *His* flesh to eat?” 53 Then Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. 54 The *one* eating My flesh and drinking My blood has everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. 56 The *one* eating My flesh and drinking My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 Even as the living Father sent Me, and I live through the Father; also the *one* eating Me, even that one will live through Me. 58 This is the Bread which came down out of Heaven, not as your fathers ate the manna and died; the *one* partaking of this Bread will live to the age.” (KJ3LT)

“The one feeding on my flesh and drinking my blood has life eternal, and I will raise up him on the last day. . . . The one feeding on my flesh and drinking my blood in me abides and I in him. . . . As sent me the living Father and I live because of the Father, [so] also the one feeding on me even that one will live because of me. This one is the bread out of heaven having come down, not as ate the fathers and died; the one feeding on this bread will live into the age.” (NGEINT)

“The one eating My flesh and drinking My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. . . . The one eating My flesh and drinking My blood remains in Me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, also the one feeding on Me, that one will also live because of Me. This is the bread having come down out of heaven, not as your fathers ate the manna and died. The one eating this bread will live into the age [fig., forever]!” (ALT)

John 7:38

And in the last great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 The one believing into Me, as the Scripture said, ‘Out of his belly will flow rivers of living water.’” (KJ3LT)

“The one believing in me, as said the scripture, ‘Rivers of living water will flow out of the belly of him.’” (NGEINT)

“The [one] believing in me, just as the scripture said: ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his belly.’” (FNT)

John 8:12

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world. The *one* following Me will not walk in the darkness, not *ever*, but will have the light of life.” (KJ3LT)

Then again to them spoke Jesus saying, “I am the light of the world; the one following me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.” (NGEINT)

So, again Jesus spoke to them saying: “I am the light of the world. The [one] following me shall not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (FNT)

John 11:25, 26

Jesus said to her, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. The *one* believing into Me, though he die, he shall live. 26 And everyone living and believing into Me shall not die to the age, not *ever*! Do you believe this?” (KJ3LT)

Said to her Jesus, “I am the resurrection and the life; the one believing in me even if he should die will live, and everyone living and believing in me never dies into the age. Do you believe this?” (NGEINT)

Jesus said to her: “I am the resurrection and the life. The [one] believing in me even if he die he will live, and everyone living and believing in me will not die to eternity. Do you believe this?” (FNT)

John 12:36

Jesus therefore said to them: “Yet [a] small time the light is with you. Be walking while you have the light, in order that the darkness not overtake you. And the [one] walking in the darkness does not know where he goes. 36 While you have the light, be believing in the light, in order that you may become sons of light.” Jesus spoke these [things] and having departed he was hidden from them. (FNT)

“As long as you have the Light, be believing [or, trusting] in the Light, so that you shall become sons [and daughters] of Light.” These things Jesus spoke, and having gone away, He was hid from them. (ALT)

John 12:44, 46

And Jesus cried and said, “He who is believing in Me, does not believe in Me, but in Him who sent Me; 45 and he who is beholding Me, does behold Him who sent Me; 46 I have come as a light to the world, that every one who is believing in Me – may not remain in the darkness. (MYLT)

“But Jesus cried out and said, “the one believing in me does not believe in me but in the one having sent me, and the one seeing me sees the one having sent me. I a light into the world have come, that everyone believing in me in the darkness may not remain.” (NGEINT)

But Jesus cried out and said: “The [one] believing in me does not believe in me but [rather] in the [one] having sent me, and the [one] beholding me beholds the [one] having sent me. I am light come into the world, in order that everyone believing in me not abide in darkness.” (FNT)

John 14:1

“Let not your heart be being troubled. Be believing in God and be believing in me. 2 In my father’s house[hold] are many dwelling-places. If [it were] not [so], I would have told you, 3 because I go to prepare [a] place for you. And if I go and prepare [a] place for you, again do I come and will take you to myself, in order that where I am you may be also.” (FNT)

John 20:31

Then truly Jesus also did many other miraculous signs in the sight of His disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. (KJ3LT)

But these things have been written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in the name of him. (NGEINT)

But these have been written so that you shall believe [or, be convinced] that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and so that believing you shall be having life in His name. (ALT)

Acts 10:43

37 [Peter is speaking to Cornelius] You know the thing that happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed, 38 Jesus the *One* from Nazareth, how God anointed Him with *the* Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good, and healing all the *ones* having been oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did, both in the country of the Jews, and in Jerusalem, whom they killed, hanging *Him* on a tree. 40 God raised up this *One* the third day and gave to Him to become visible; 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses, the *ones* having been before hand-picked by God, to us who ate and drank with Him after His rising again from *the* dead. 42 And He commanded us to proclaim to the people and to witness solemnly that it is *He* Himself who has been marked out by God *to be* Judge of *the* living and *the* dead. 43 To this *One* all the Prophets witness, *so that* through His name everyone believing into Him *will* receive remission of sins. (KJ3LT)

“To this one all the prophets bear witness, forgiveness of sins to receive through the name of him everyone believing in him.” (NGEINT)

“To this One all the prophets bear witness [that] through His name every [one] that is believing [or, trusting] in Him receives forgiveness of sins.” (ALT)

Acts 13:39

[Paul is speaking] But He whom God raised up, He did not see corruption. 38 Therefore let it be known to you, men, brothers, that through this *One* is proclaimed to you remission of sins. 39 And from all the things from which you could not be justified in the Law of Moses, in this *One* every *one* believing is justified. (KJ3LT)

“and from all things of which you were not able by [the] law of Moses to be justified, by this one everyone believing is justified.” (NGEINT)

“and from all [the things] from which you were not able to be justified [or, declared righteous] by the Law of Moses, in this One every[one] believing is justified!” (ALT)

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is *the* power of God to salvation to every *one* believing, both to Jew first, and to Greek; 17 for in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; even as it is written, “But the just *one* shall live by faith.” (KJ3LT)

For not I am ashamed of the good news, for [the] power of God it is unto salvation to everyone believing, both to the Jew first and to Greek. (NGEINT)

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is [the] power of God to salvation to every[one] believing, both to [the] Jew first and to [the] Greek. (ALT)

Romans 3:22

But now apart from law a righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith of Jesus Christ toward all and upon all the *ones* believing; for there is no difference, 23 for all sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified undeservedly by His grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus. (KJ3LT)

A righteousness of God through faith of(in) Jesus Christ to all the ones believing. For there is no distinction (NGEINT)

but the righteousness of God [is] through faith [or, trust] in Jesus Christ to all and upon all the ones believing, for there is no difference [or, distinction] (ALT)

Romans 4:5

What then shall we say our father Abraham to have found according to flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has a boast, but not with God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “And Abraham believed God, and it was imputed to him for righteousness.” 4 But *to one* working, the reward is not imputed according to grace, but according to debt. 5 But to the *one* not working, but believing on the *One* justifying the ungodly, his faith is imputed for righteousness. (KJ3LT)

But to the one not working but believing on the one justifying the ungodly is accounted the faith of him for righteousness. (NGEINT)

But to the [one] not working, but believing upon the [one] justifying the irreverent, his belief is reckoned to justness. (FNT)

Romans 4:11

Even as also David says of the blessing of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 “Blessed *are they* whose lawlessnesses have been remitted, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed *is the* man to whom *the* Lord will not impute sin.” 9 *Is* this blessing then on the circumcision, or also on the uncircumcision? For we say the faith “was imputed to Abraham for righteousness.” 10 How then was it imputed? Being

in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision! 11 And he received a sign of circumcision *as* a seal of the righteousness of faith, the *one while* in uncircumcision, for him to be a father of all the *ones* believing through uncircumcision, for righteousness to be imputed to them also, 12 and a father of circumcision to the *ones* not of circumcision only, but also to the *ones* walking in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham, the *one he had* during uncircumcision. (KJ3LT)

And he received a sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the(his) faith [while] in uncircumcision, for him to be a father of all the ones believing through uncircumcision, for the righteousness to be accounted also to them. (NGEINT)

And he received a sign of circumcision, a seal [fig., proof] of the righteousness of the faith, the [faith while] in the uncircumcision, for him to be a father of all the ones believing through uncircumcision [or, although uncircumcised], for the righteousness to also be accounted to them; (ALT)

Romans 4:24

For the promise *was* not through Law to Abraham, or to his seed, *for* him to be the heir of the world, but through a righteousness of faith. 14 For if the *ones* of Law *are* heirs, faith has been made void, and the promise has been annulled. 15 For the Law works out wrath; for where no law is, neither *is* transgression. 16 Because of this, *it is* of faith, that *it be* according to grace, for the promise to be confirmed to all the seed, not to the *seed* of the Law only, but also to the *one* of *the* faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 even as it is written, “I have appointed you a father of many nations”; before God, whom he believed, the *One* making the dead *ones* live, and calling the things not being as *if* being, 18 who beyond hope believed on hope, for him to become a father of many nations, according to what was said, “So shall your seed be.” 19 And being about a hundred years *old*, not weakening in faith, he did not consider his body already being *as good as* dead, nor yet the dead state of Sarah’s womb, 20 and did not hesitate by unbelief at the promise of God, but was empowered by faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully persuaded that what He has promised, He is also able to do. 22 Therefore “it was also imputed to him for righteousness.” 23 But it was not written on account of him only, that it was imputed to him, 24 but also because of us, to whom it is going to be imputed, to the *ones* believing on the *One* having raised our Lord Jesus from *the* dead, 25 who was given over on account of our deviations, and was raised on account of our justification. (KJ3LT)

But also because of us, to whom it is about to be accounted, to the ones believing on the one having raised Jesus the Lord of us from the dead ones. (NGEINT)

but also on account of us, to whom it is about to be accounted [or, imputed], to the ones believing on [or, trusting in] the One having raised up Jesus our Lord from [the] dead. (ALT)

Romans 9:33

What then shall we say? That *the* nations, the *ones* not pursuing righteousness, have taken over righteousness, but a righteousness of faith; 31 but Israel pursuing a law of righteousness did not arrive to a law of righteousness? 32 Why? Because *it was* not of faith, but as of works of Law. For they stumbled at the Stone-of-stumbling, 33 as it has been written, “Behold, I place in” “Zion a Stone-of-stumbling,” “and a Rock-of-offense,” “and everyone believing on Him will not be shamed.” (KJ3LT)

As it has been written, “Behold I place in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and the one believing on him will not be put to shame.” (NGEINT)

Just as it has been written, “Look! I place in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence; and every one believing on [or, trusting in] Him will not be put to shame.” (ALT)

Romans 10:4

Brethren, the pleasure indeed of my heart, and my supplication that [is] to God for Israel, is – for salvation; 2 for I bear them testimony that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge, 3 for not knowing the righteousness of God, and their own righteousness seeking to establish, they did not submit to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is an end of law for righteousness to every one who is believing. (MYLT)

For Christ [is] end of law [resulting] in righteousness to everyone believing. (NGEINT)

For Christ [is the] end of [the] law for righteousness to everyone believing. (ALT)

Romans 10:11

Because if you confess *the* Lord Jesus with your mouth, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from *the* dead, you will be saved. 10 For with *the* heart *one* believes unto righteousness, and with *the* mouth *one* confesses unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone believing on Him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no difference both of Jew and of Greek, for the same Lord of all is rich toward all the *ones* calling on Him. 13 For every *one*, “whoever may call on the name of *the* Lord will be saved.” (KJ3LT)

For says the scripture, “Everyone believing on him will not be put to shame.” (NGEINT)

For the Scripture says, “Every one believing on [or, trusting in] Him will not be put to shame.” (ALT)

1 Corinthians 1:21

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ be nullified. 18 For the Word of the cross is foolishness to the *ones* perishing, but to us being saved it is *the* power of God. 19 For it has been written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the understanding of the understanding *ones*.” 20 Where *is the wise one*? Where *is the scribe*? Where *is the* disputer of this world? Did God not make the wisdom of this world to be foolish? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world *by* wisdom did not know God, God was pleased through the foolishness of preaching to save the *ones* believing. (KJ3LT)

For since by the wisdom of God the world through the(its) wisdom did not know God, was pleased God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save the ones believing. (NGEINT)

For since in the wisdom of God the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God to save those believing through the foolishness of proclamation. (FNT)

Galatians 3:22

Therefore is the Law against the promises of God? Let it not be! For if a law had been given which had been able to make alive, indeed righteousness would have been out of Law. 22 But the Scripture shut up together all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to the *ones* believing. (KJ3LT)

But the scripture consigned all things under sin, that the promise by faith of(in) Jesus Christ might be given to the ones believing. (NGEINT)

But the scripture has shut everything under sin in order that the promise from faith in Jesus Christ be given to those believing. (FNT)

Ephesians 1:19

Because of this, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and love toward all the saints, 16 *I also* do not cease giving thanks on your behalf, making mention of you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in *the* full knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your mind having been enlightened, for you to know what is the hope of His calling, and what *are* the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what *is* the surpassing greatness of His power toward us, the *ones* believing according to the working of His mighty strength (KJ3LT)

And what [is] the surpassing greatness of the power of him to us the ones believing according to the working of the might of the strength of him (NGEINT)

and what [is] the surpassing greatness of His power to us, the ones believing, according to the supernatural working of the might of His strength (ALT)

1 Thessalonians 1:7

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, welcoming the Word in much affliction with joy of *the* Holy Spirit. 7 So that you became examples to all the *ones* believing in Macedonia and Achaia. (KJ3LT)

So that you came to be an example to all the ones believing in Macedonia and in Achaia. (NGEINT)

so that you became [a] pattern to all those believing in Macedonia and Achaia. (FNT)

1 Thessalonians 2:10, 13

You and God *are* witnesses how holily and righteously and blamelessly we were to you, the *ones* believing; 11 even as you know each one of you how, as a father *to* his children, exhorting and consoling you, 12 testifying for you to walk worthily of God, the *One* calling you to His kingdom and glory. 13 And because of this we give thanks to God without ceasing, that having received *the* Word of hearing from us, you welcomed *it as* of God, not *as* a word of men, but as it is, truly *the* Word of God, which also works in you, the *ones* believing. (KJ3LT)

You [are] witnesses and God how devoutly and righteously and blamelessly we were with you the one believing And because of this we also give thanks to God unceasingly that having received [the] word of [the] report from us, of God you received [it] not [as] a word of men but as it is truly [the] word of God, which also works in you, the ones believing. (NGEINT)

You [are] witness, and God [also], how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we became to you the believing [ones] And because of this we also thank God unceasingly, that having received the word of God from hearing us, you received [it] not [as the] word of men, but just as it is truly, [the] word of God, which also works in you the believing [ones]. (FNT)

1 Peter 1:8

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the *one* according to His great mercy having regenerated us to a living hope through *the* resurrection of Jesus Christ from *the* dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, having been kept in Heaven for you, 5 *the ones* in *the* power of God being guarded through faith to a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time; 6 in which you exult; yet a little *while*, if it is needful, having been grieved in many various kinds of trials, 7 so that the testing of your faith, much more precious than perishing gold, but being tested through fire, may be found to praise and honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 whom having not known, you love; in whom not yet seeing, but believing, you exult with joy unspeakable and being glorified, 9 obtaining the end of your faith, *the* salvation of *your* souls. (KJ3LT)

Whom not having seen you love, in whom now not seeing but believing you rejoice with joy inexpressible and having been glorified (NGEINT)

whom not seeing you love whom not yet seeing, but believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and glorious (FNT)

1 Peter 2:6, 7

Therefore, it is also contained in the Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion” an elect, “precious Stone,” “a Corner-foundation”; “and the *one* believing on Him shall not be put to shame, not *ever!*” 7 Therefore to you, the *ones* believing, *belongs* the preciousness. But to disobeying *ones*, *He is the* “Stone which the *ones* building rejected; this *One* became *the* Head of the Corner,” 8 and “a Stone-of-stumbling, and a Rock-of-offense” to the *ones* stumbling, being disobedient to the Word, to which they were also appointed. (KJ3LT)

Because it stands in scripture, “Behold I place in Zion a corner-stone, chosen, precious and the one believing on him never will be ashamed.” To you therefore the ones believing is the preciousness but to the unbelieving ones, a stone which the ones building rejected this one became head of [the] corner (NGEINT)

For this reason, it is contained in the Scripture, “Look! I lay in Zion a stone, a cornerstone, chosen, precious, and the one believing on Him shall by no means be put to shame [or, be disappointed].” Therefore, the honor [is] to you, the ones believing. But to the ones disobeying [or, refusing to believe], “[The] stone which the builders rejected, this [one] became for [the] head of [the] corner [or, the chief cornerstone]” (ALT)

1 John 5:1, 5

Every one who is believing that Jesus is the Christ, he has been begotten of God, and every one who is loving Him who did beget, does also love him who is begotten of Him: 2 in this we know that we love the children of God, when we may love God, and His commands may keep; 3 for this is the love of God, that we may keep His commands, and His commands are not burdensome; 4 because every one who is begotten of God does overcome the world, and this is the victory that did overcome the world – our faith; 5 who is he who is overcoming the world, if not he who is believing that Jesus is the Son of God? (MYLT)

Everyone believing that Jesus is the Christ, of God has been born, and everyone loving the one having given birth loves also the one having been born of him. . . . And who is the one overcoming the world except the one believing that Jesus is the Son of God (NGEINT)

Every one believing [or, who is convinced] that Jesus is the Christ [or, the Messiah] has been begotten from God, and every one loving the One having begotten loves also the one having been begotten from [or, by] Him. . . . Who is the one overcoming the world, if not the one believing [or, who is convinced] that Jesus is the Son of God? (ALT)

1 John 5:10, 13

The *one* believing into the Son of God has the witness in himself. The *one* not believing God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed into the witness which God has witnessed concerning His Son. 11 And this is the witness:, that God has given us everlasting life, and this life is in His Son. 12 The *one* having the Son has life. The *one* not having the Son of God does not have life. 13 I have written these things to you, the *ones* believing into the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have everlasting life, and that you may believe into the name of the Son of God. (KJ3LT)

The one believing in the Son of God has the witness in himself These things I wrote to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to the ones believing in the name of the Son of God. (NGEINT)

The [one] believing in the son of God has the testimony in him. . . . These [things] I have written to you in order that you have eternal life, to those believing in the name of God. (FNT)

In the book of Revelation, the author uses a verb “overcoming” that is parallel in meaning to the verb “believing” in the NT. This becomes clear in what is commanded and promised by Jesus to the church in Smyrna:

“And to the angel of the assembly in Smyrna write: These [things] says the First and the Last, who became dead and lived [or, came to life]: 9 I know your works and affliction and poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy of the ones saying themselves to be Jews [fig., who say they are Jews], and are not, but [are] a synagogue of Satan. 10 Stop being afraid of what you are about to suffer. Listen indeed! The Devil is about to throw [some] of you into prison, so that you shall be tested, and you will have affliction ten days. Continue being faithful until death, and I will give to you the victor’s wreath [or, crown] of life. 11 The one having an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. The one overcoming shall by no means be harmed by the second death.” (Revelation 2:8-11, ALT)

Jesus commands the Christians in Smyrna to “Continue being faithful until death,” and then promises that if they do, he will give to them “the victor’s wreath or crown of life.” The “crown of life” refers to eternal life as the vast majority of scholars and commentators state.⁴ This promise is equivalent to the promise Jesus gives to the church in Ephesus:

“The one having an ear, let him hear [or, pay attention to] what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To the one overcoming, I will give to him to eat from the tree of life which is in the Paradise of My God.” (Revelation 2:7, ALT)

The “tree of life,” and “crown of life” are synonymous expressions of experiencing eternal life with God in the New Heaven and New Earth described in Revelation 21–22. Again, this is the view of the vast majority of scholars and commentators. The one *overcoming* is promised “the tree of life”. The one who *continues to be faithful till the point of death* is promised the “crown of life”. Continuing to be faithful to the point of

⁴ See the article: “The Crown of Life, Righteousness, Glory, and Imperishability: Images of Final Salvation” (www.evangelicalarminians.org).

death *defines* what it means to be one who is overcoming in the book of Revelation. This is confirmed even further when we compare the promises to the one overcoming in Revelation 2:11 and 21:7-8.

The one overcoming will inherit these [things],⁵ and I will be God to him, and he will be a son to Me. 8 But to the cowardly and unbelieving and sinners and [ones] having been corrupted and murderers and sexual sinners and sorcerers and idolaters and all the liars, their part [will be] in the lake, the one being burned with fire and sulfur [or, brimstone], which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:7-8, ALT)

The one overcoming in Revelation 2:11 is promised that they “shall by no means be harmed by the second death.” The “second death” is the lake of fire as explained in Revelation 21:8. The one overcoming in Revelation 21:7 is promised that they will inherit all that God has in store for them in the new heaven and new earth.

All this was mentioned in order to enable the reader see that “overcoming” is a parallel expression to “believing or trusting” found in the NT, and describes saving faith as a persevering faith in Jesus Christ in the midst of a hostile world.

Revelation 2:7

“The *one* having an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To the *one* overcoming, I will give to him to eat of the Tree of Life which is in *the* midst of the Paradise of God.” (KJ3LT)

⁵ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” 6 And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.” (NKJV)

“The one having an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one overcoming I will give to him to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” (NGEINT)

“The one having an ear, let him hear [or, pay attention to] what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To the one overcoming, I will give to him to eat from the tree of life which is in [the] Paradise of My God.” (ALT)

Revelation 2:11

“Fear nothing *of* what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw *some* from you into prison, so that you may be tried; and you will have affliction ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 The *one* having an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. The *one* overcoming will not be hurt by the second death, not *ever!*” (KJ3LT)

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. The one having ears let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one overcoming never will be hurt by the second death.” (NGEINT)

“Continue being faithful until death, and I will give to you the victor’s wreath [or, crown] of life. The one having an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies: The one overcoming shall by no means be harmed by the second death.” (ALT)

Revelation 2:17

“The *one* having an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To the *one* overcoming, I will give him to eat from the hidden manna. And I will give to him a white pebble, and on the pebble a new name having been written, which no one knows if not the *one* receiving *it*.” (KJ3LT)

“The one having ears let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one overcoming I will give him [some] of the manna having been hidden, and I will give him a white stone, and upon the stone a new name having been written, which no one knows except the one receiving [it].” (NGEINT)

“The one having an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies: To the one overcoming, I will give to him to eat of the manna, the one having been hidden, and I will give to him a white stone, and on the stone a new name having been written, which no one knows except the one receiving [it].” (ALT)

Revelation 2:26

“And the *one* overcoming, and the *one* keeping My works until *the* end, ‘I will give to him authority over the nations,’ 27 and ‘he will shepherd them with an iron staff’ (they are ‘broken to pieces like clay vessels’), as I also have received from My Father. 28 And I will give to him the Morning Star. 29 The *one* having an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.” (KJ3LT)

“And the one overcoming and the one keeping until [the] end the works of me, I will give him authority over the nations” (NGEINT)

“And the one overcoming and the one keeping My works until the end, ‘I will give to him authority over the nations’” (ALT)

Revelation 3:5

“You also have a few names in Sardis which did not defile their garments, and they shall walk with Me in white because they are worthy. 5 The *one* overcoming, this one shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot his name out of the Book of Life, not *ever!* And I will acknowledge his name before My Father, and before His angels. 6 The *one* having an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.” (KJ3LT)

“The one overcoming, in similar manner, will be clothed in white garments, and never will I blot out the name of him from the book of life and I will confess the name of him before the Father of me and before the angels of him.” (NGEINT)

“The one overcoming, this [one] will be clothed in white garments, and by no means will I blot out his name from the Scroll of Life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” (ALT)

Revelation 3:12

“Behold, I am coming quickly. Hold what you have that no one take your crown. 12 The *one* overcoming, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall not go out any more, not *ever!* And I will write the name of My God on him, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem which comes down out of Heaven from My God, and My new name. 13 The *one* having an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.” (KJ3LT)

“The one overcoming I will make him a pillar in the temple of the God of me and never may he go out any more and I will write upon him the name of the God of me and the name of the city of the God of me, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from the God of me, and the new name of me.” (NGEINT)

“The one overcoming, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and by no means shall he go out any longer. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which is descending out of heaven from my God, and [I will write on him] My new name.” (ALT)

Revelation 3:21

“The *one* overcoming, I will give to him to sit with Me in My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father in His throne. 22 The *one* having an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.” (KJ3LT)

“The one overcoming, I will give to him to sit with me in(on) the throne of me, as I also overcome and sat with the Father of me in(on) the throne of him.” (NGEINT)

“The one overcoming, I will give to him to sit down with Me in My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my Father in His throne.” (ALT)

Revelation 21:7

“The *one* overcoming will inherit all things, and I will be God to him, and he will be the son to Me. 8 But for the cowardly and faithless *ones*, and disgusting *ones*, and murderers, and fornicators, and users of magic, and idolaters, and all liars, their part will be in the Lake burning with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (KJ3LT)

“The one overcoming will inherit these things and I will be to him God and he will be to me a son.” (NGEINT)

“The one overcoming will inherit these [things], and I will be God to him, and he will be a son to Me.” (ALT)

Conclusion

Many wonderful promises are made to those who are believing or trusting in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, (or in the Father who sent him).

Those ones trusting in or remaining faith to Jesus . . .

- become children of God
- receive forgiveness of sins
- are justified/declared righteous
- are saved (and *being saved*)
- are having eternal life
- are remaining in a saving relationship with Jesus
- are overcoming the world
- have God's great power and word working in them
- have rivers of living water flowing within them
- have passed from death to life
- have been transferred out of darkness
- have a place prepared for them
- will have the light of life
- will live into the age
- will not be judged/condemned
- will never be hungry or thirsty
- will never be cast out
- will never perish into the age
- will never walk in darkness
- will never be put to shame
- will never die into the age
- will be raised up on the last day
- will inherit the new heavens and new earth

These promises are indeed precious, but they are only for those who are trusting in or remaining faithful to him who is the source and giver of these promises—Jesus Christ. According to the Greek New Testament, the kind of faith that partakes of all the promises of God is nothing less than a living and persevering faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.⁶

⁶ This paper was completed in December of 2009, by Steve Witzki.