

What is a True Believer?

Just what is a real Believer? As with Salvation are you certain that you know the answer?

Would you say he is one who "attends Church? Is a Believer one who "professes Yahshua" or "knows his Messiah"? Have you perhaps thought a Believer is anyone who has been "baptized" or "immersed"?

Is there a single verse to which we can turn that gives the Scripture definition of a Believer and eliminates all confusion? There is!

Paul wrote:

Rom: 8:14- "For as many as are led by the Spirit of Elohim, these are sons of Elohim."

A True Believer is one who has the Ru'ach leading him.

But is having Yahweh's Spirit absolutely **essential** to being a True Believer? Earlier, Paul had said:

Rom.: 8-9-"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of Elohim dwells in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Messiah, this one is **not** His."

It is simple! One either has the Spirit of Yahweh, and is a True Believer, or does not have it and is not-is "none of His" All those who are truly converted must have the Set-apart Spirit in them.

But what does this mean? And is this all there is to conversion, with nothing more to understand?

Scripture is filled with terms that seem to unnecessarily confuse people. "Salvation," "reconciliation," "sin," "justification," "predestination," "sanctification," "works," "repentance," and many more words, have probably seemed ambiguous and confusing to you.

For instance, most Christians believe they are "saved by the blood of Messiah." This is not true! While Scripture says that we are "**reconciled** to Elohim" and **justified** by His, (Messiah's) blood," it also states that we are "saved by **LIFE**." -Rom. 5:9-10

Understand this point. We are *not* justified by works, but by the blood of Yahshua Messiah.

Repentance-turning to Yahweh and obeying Him-addresses a Believer's *future* obedience. It does nothing to cover up PAST sins. Messiah's blood justifies-makes clean, white, righteous-all-*past* transgressions, sins.

But, being "saved by his LIFE" is vital to understand and requires explanation.

Lets examine 1 Corinthians 15:17-18. It begins the explanation of why we can only be saved by the life of Messiah:

1 Cor. 15:17- "And if Messiah has not been raised, your belief is to no purpose, you are still in your sins! 18-Then also those who have fallen asleep in Messiah have perished."

But why this?

Why would Messiah's *Resurrection* also be necessary to remove Believers from the consequences of their sins?

Consider! If Messiah is not risen from the dead, then He cannot send His Set-apart Spirit to beget Believers at repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38). Remember, "as many as are led by the Spirit of Yahweh, they are the sons of Yahweh." (Rom. 8:14)

It is the same Spirit that Yahweh will use to eventually change all converted people into spirit-composed sons of Elohim-resurrected immortal Spirit beings.

It is this Spirit in them that, when they are changed, makes eternal life-salvation possible.

Is this clear? If Messiah had not been resurrected, then he could not have gone to heaven where he could send His Spirit to His followers. Without this Spirit living within, there is no hope of eternal life.

We have seen that human beings do not have life inherent within them. They are not born with an immortal soul. Since you are not immortal, your life span will cover a certain allotted time, after which you will die. That is absolute. Unless Yahweh intervenes in your life, you have no future-no hope-beyond a limited time of about 70-80 years.

Now let's return to answering the question of exactly what a Believer is. Remember, it is only the true Believer who will receive eternal life-salvation. We must not accept a partial or incomplete answer to this most vital question.

When Messiah kept the Passover on the night before He was crucified, He indirectly, through prayer, explained an important principle to His disciples.

John 17:15-"I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the wicked one. 16-They are not of the world, as I am not of the world. 17-Set them apart in Your truth-Your Word is truth." ¹

A True Believer believes and follows the *truth*. It is the TRUTH that sets him apart from all those around him. He is not *of* the world and its ways, customs, and traditions

But what does this mean?

It means that Believers are required to obey the laws of Yahweh. That is the *truth* from His Word.

1 See Psalms 119:142 150

Yahshua never taught that people should just "believe on Him" to receive salvation.

When a young man asked Messiah what he must do to have eternal life-receive salvation-Yahshua told him, "*if you will enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS.*"

Hearing this, and knowing that the man was rich, the disciples were shocked. They also did not understand how obedience was possible and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Yahshua answered, "*With men this is impossible; but with Elohim all things are possible.*"- Matthew 19:17,25-26

In Mark 7:7-8, Yahshua said, "*Howbeit IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP Me. teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of Elohim, you hold the tradition of men.*"

It is possible to worship Messiah in vain. It is possible to think about Him, talk about

Him and refer to Him often as Master and Savior-ALL IN VAIN! And if your religion is vain, then you have no salvation.

Hundreds of millions of "Christians" assume that they will be saved at death, simply because they have "accepted Jesus" as Savior. This is not what Scripture says!

Notice: "*NOT every one that says unto Me, Master, Master, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven* ("of" not "in" heaven) but he that **DOES the will of my Father which is in heaven,**"-Matthew 7:21 Paul wrote, :the DOERS of the law (Yahweh's) shall be *justified.*"-Rom. 2:13 Professing Messiah is not enough. And Yahweh is not willing to forgive (justify) any who will not also "do" the law.

Though it is the blood of Messiah that justified us (Rom. 5:9) His blood will not be applied to those who do not strive to keep Yahweh's law. Obedience to Yahweh is a *qualifier* for those who seek eternal life. It is even essential to receiving or continuing to receive the Spirit of Yahweh.

The book of Acts speaks of "the Set-apart (Spirit), whom Yahweh has given to them that OBEY Him."-Acts 5:32 I doubt you have ever heard that before.

Receiving Yahweh's Spirit is preceded by repentance of having broken Yahweh's law and baptism/immersion (Acts 2:38) At this point, a new Spirit-begotten life begins.

The newly begotten child of Elohim is now an "heir of Elohim...joint heirs with Messiah." (Rom. 8:17)

He becomes part of the true body that Messiah promised to build and lead (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18) which He feeds through His true ministry (Eph. 4:11-15).

What is the First Step?

An enormous question now looms over you. You are determined to be a Believer.

You desire to obey Elohim. You want to be saved-to receive salvation. How do you get started on the Believer's path? What is the very first thing you must understand, then do?

Remember, you are still cut off from Elohim. All obedience and law-keeping has no power to save you, and salvation is what you want. Your first priority is to escape the death penalty. And that penalty is real.

Now you understand there is no eternal punishing, in an ever-burning hell, awaiting the unrepentant sinner. But there is eternal punishment, and it is called the "second death" (Rev. 20:6, 14). Hebrews 9:27 describes the first death-the one to which all are "appointed". John 5:28-29 describes the resurrection of the evil to final judgment, and to final punishment.

Now let's focus on you. I will be dramatic. Think of this sobering analogy. Like a condemned capital offender taken from death row, you sit strapped in an electric chair, awaiting execution. On a predetermined signal, the executioner is prepared to pull the switch and send thousands of volts of electricity through your body to end your life.

Since you cannot save yourself, and you are guilty as charged, you are left in a completely helpless-and hopeless-state. Your crime(s) have strapped you into the chair and you cannot move. You cry out for mercy-a reprieve-and learn that only one is available. How do you receive such a reprieve and begin on the Believer's path?

There is but one way to gain access to Elohim. Let's make it so plain that none can misunderstand.

We need to carefully examine several verses in Romans 5, which explain how this reprieve-this mercy-this pardon-this forgiveness-can be obtained.

Rom. 5:6-"For when we were still weak, Messiah in due time died for the wicked. 7- For one shall hardly die for a righteous one, though possibly for a good one someone would even have the courage to die. 8-But Elohim proves His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Messiah died for us".

There is nothing that you or I did to deserve Messiah's sacrifice. Out of love (John 3:16) Elohim sent Messiah to give himself while we were still living in and practicing sin. No human being would be so magnanimous and unselfish (vs 7). The great Elohim of heaven was willing to send His only Son to give Himself for all mankind before anyone understood or appreciated what had occurred on their behalf.

Rom. 5:9-"Much more then, having now been declared right by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him"

Recognize that only past is justified (made right) by the blood of Messiah. His blood has literally "saved" us from the "wrath" of Elohim- the DEATH PENALTY)!

Rom. 5:10-"For if, being enemies, we were restored to favour with Elohim through the death of His Son, much more, having been restored to favour, we shall be saved by His life"

(Once our past is "reconciled", we can have a relationship with Elohim, because sin no longer cuts us off from Him. The *barrier* of sin (Isa. 59:1-2; Jer. 5:25) has been

removed. The law no longer holds any claim over our lives!)

You have no power to do *anything* about your circumstance. Messiah intervention is necessary.

But the term *reconciled* and *justified* are not the same as saved. These terms come into play upon repentance and acceptance of Messiah as Savior. That event wipes our past clean, but does nothing about our *future*. Justification and reconciliation are not the equivalent of the gift of salvation.

The law of biogenesis states that death cannot impart life. Life only comes from life- and Messiah and the Father are the only Ones that have life inherent within them.

You can only receive *eternal* life through the LIFE of Messiah. Take time to read 1 Corinthians 15:14-23. And then determine that you will never again confuse these terms-or let others try to confuse you by twisting them.

You now know that you are saved by Messiah's LIFE. But did you notice the words "shall be" before that phrase in Romans 5:10? Read it again. It is written in the future tense, not the past tense! And that is what it means, We are not YET saved, but we are forgiven. Salvation is something that "shall" happen in the future. The verse does not say that we are "now" saved," but rather shall be.

Will you believe men? Or will you believe the plain words of Scripture?

Grasp this critical knowledge. Salvation does not happen at the moment of justification and reconciliation. Rather, this is the moment the salvation process begins.

"Saved"-Past, Present, Future

Some understanding is important in explaining exactly when a Believer IS saved.

This is a subject of great confusion. Comprehending it is critical to everything about the subject of salvation.

Scripture teaches that you are saved in *three distinct ways*. All of them represent what is correctly described as *the process of salvation*.

Romans 6:23 explained that the wages of sin is death. At repentance, baptism and conversion, a Believer is forgiven by the blood of Messiah and is immediately *saved* from penalty of PAST sins. So, in one sense, it can be said that the person has been "saved," at that moment, from death.

But by now you recognize that this is not the whole story. There are two more applications of when and how a person is saved.

The word **salvation** is derived from the word **saved**. So, the second way is the most obvious, and it is the actual receiving of eternal life, the pinnacle of salvation. This happens at the resurrection of the dead in Messiah Elohim (1 Cor. 15:50-55; 1 Thes. 4:13-18), upon His Return. This is FUTURE!

But no one receives eternal salvation now. All must first undergo a life of trial, testing, learning, growing and overcoming.

So then, the third way one is saved is that he is **"being saved"**-an ongoing process-throughout his lifetime. Many verses reveal that nothing is automatic simply because conversion-spiritual begettal-has taken place. To believe that salvation is complete upon conversion is to mock Elohim by ignoring all of the scriptures we have read

about obeying Him.

Besides, if you are automatically saved at conversion, then what would be the point of living out the remainder of your natural life? Why would Elohim not simply take you directly to whatever is the afterlife after you "accept the blood of Yahshua," if salvation is finished at the moment of conversion?

So, when you come to understand this, it is time to count the cost and make the commitment:

Luke 14:26-"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brothers, and sisters, and his own life too, he is unable to be My taught one. 27-And whoever does not bear his stake and come after Me is unable to be My taught one."

And He goes on to explain "counting the cost". Once this commitment is made, a person is ready to be immersed!

*All scripture in this booklet is quoted by the ISR Scriptures at:

<https://www.bible.com/bible/316/gen.1.isr98>