

Two Kinds of Belief in John

In the first set of verses, great promises are made to those who believe. In the second, those who are said to have believed clearly fall short of these promises. What distinguishes the believing in these two cases?

<i>Promises to Believers</i>	<i>Believers who Fell Short</i>
<p>1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.</p> <p>3:16 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.</p> <p>6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.</p> <p>6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.</p> <p>6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.</p> <p>7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit,</p> <p>11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.</p> <p>12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.</p> <p>14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.</p>	<p>2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. 24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, 25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.</p> <p>8:30 As he spake these words, many believed on him. ... 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: ... 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. ... 45 ... ye believe me not</p> <p>12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. (cf. Matthew 10:32-33, Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.)</p>

	<i>Belief</i>	<i>Freedom</i>	<i>Father</i>	<i>Sin</i>
<i>31-32, Jesus</i>	X	X		
<i>33, Jews</i>		X	X	
<i>34-38, Jesus</i>		X	X	X
<i>39a, Jews</i>			X	
<i>39b, Jesus</i>			X	X
<i>41b, Jews</i>			X	
<i>42-47, Jesus</i>	X		X	X
<i>48, Jews</i>			X	
<i>49-51, Jesus</i>	X	X	X	X