

Twelve Fundamentals of Christian Faith

Introduction

There are many different denominations in the Christian Faith today. We are divided up into the Baptists, Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, Pentecostals, Charismatic's, Episcopalians, Lutherans, and so forth. I believe this is not pleasing to God the Father, as He is one God and there is one Bible. I feel that our differences in the way we practice religion must be offensive to God. As a result of this divide in the Church of Jesus it also becomes a stumbling point for the world which is constantly watching. The church is the Body of Christ and it puzzles the unbeliever as to His church is not a unified body.

The bible tells us in Isaiah 55:8 that God's ways are far above our ways, "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD." There are many mysteries that we will never understand while we are here in this world. It should not be surprising that we as finite men will interpret parts of the scripture differently than the whole of the church. There are fundamental beliefs that cannot be compromised and every denomination must ascribe to. It is important then for each believer to know these fundamental basic tenets of Christian Faith. The bible tells us that there will be many false prophets and false teachings in the end times. Matthew 24:11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many."

In the first installment of our course we are going to identify the twelve fundamentals of Christian Faith. It is important to learn these and have them at the ready to defend your faith in Jesus Christ. We will list them first and then discuss each one so you will have the proper ammunition to defend what you believe.

Twelve Fundamentals of Christian Faith

- ❖ Jesus Christ is the Only Way to Eternal Salvation With God the Father.
- ❖ We Are Saved by Grace Through Faith – Not by Works.
- ❖ Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- ❖ The Incarnation of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ From the Grave.
- ❖ The Ascension of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ The Doctrine of the Trinity.
- ❖ The Holy Bible is the Inspired and Infallible Word of God.
- ❖ We Are Baptized With the Holy Spirit at the Moment of Salvation.
- ❖ Regeneration by the Holy Spirit.

- ❖ The Doctrine of Hell.
- ❖ The 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ Back to our Earth.

Paul writes in 1 Timothy that in the last days many will be led away from the faith by deceitful spirits. We read in Ephesians that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places. Paul writes in Ephesians that we are to put on the full armor of God.

To be strong in the faith we must know whom we believe and follow. Jesus is the Word of God and the Power of God. To grow in our faith we must know Jesus, we must study God's Word. In our following discussions we will discuss each fundamental and found them solidly in God's Word.

Key Verses

Isaiah 55:8, Matthew 24:11, 1 Timothy 4:1, Ephesians 6:12, Ephesians 6:11, John 1:1, Matthew 28:18,

Christ Only Way to Eternal Salvation

The first and most important fundamental of the Christian faith is that Jesus Christ died and shed His blood on the cross to pay the wages of sin. Sin is disobedience to God's Word. In the Garden of Eden God told man he could eat of any tree except from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told man that in that day, if he ate of that tree, he would die. Man was created in the likeness of God having a free will. Forbidding man to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was a test of man obedience to see which government he would abide, that of God the Father or his own selfish desire. Satan in the form of a serpent deceived man by twisting the Word of God and promoting man's own selfish want. Man ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and sin entered into the world. God's Word is absolute truth and Adam convicted all mankind to the penalty of disobedience to God's Word, which is sin resulting in death.

Man being born with a sin nature and being incapable to live a righteous life according to God's Word needs atonement for his sins. It must be a blood atonement of a male without defect. In the Old Testament males out of the flock that had no blemish were sacrificed at the altar of God. All sin is cleansed with blood and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.

Because God loved His creation so much from the very beginning in Genesis He promised a Savior for man. All through the Old Testament there are references to the

coming Messiah. Old Testament Biblical prophecy points to the true identity of Jesus Christ being the Son of God, the Savior, and the Lamb of God therefore being the true Messiah.

Here are scriptures for you to stand on that testify who Jesus is, our one and only Savior and approach to God the Father.

- ❖ John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
- ❖ 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,
- ❖ Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
- ❖ Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- ❖ John 6:51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."
- ❖ John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.
- ❖ John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."
- ❖ John 10:9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.
- ❖ John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
- ❖ John 14:6 Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Key Verses

Gen 2:17, Gen 3:19, Gen 1:27, Romans 6:23, Lev 1:2-5, Hebrews 9:22, Lev 4:22-24, Gen 3:14-15, John 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:5, Acts 4:12, Ephesians 4:4, John 6:51, John 6:35, John 8:12, John 10:9, John 11:25, John 14:6.

We Are Saved by Grace through Faith – Not by Works

The second important fundamental of the Christian Faith is that we are saved by Grace through our faith in Jesus Christ. We cannot work our way to the Kingdom of God no matter how good, pure or how holy we think our works to be.

The bible is very clear that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. At our very best we still cannot complete a life of holy righteousness and be able to stand before God.

God's grace is unearned favor towards us because He loves us. By our faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son, we receive eternal life by His grace. It is God's free gift that none of us may boast of works that we may do but boast on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are eighteen powerful verses that you can put into your war chest to defend your faith in Jesus Christ.

- ❖ Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
- ❖ Galatians 2:16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.
- ❖ Romans 3:20,23 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- ❖ 2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,
- ❖ Romans 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.
- ❖ Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.
- ❖ Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,
- ❖ Acts 15:11 "But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are."
- ❖ Ephesians 2:4-7 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- ❖ Titus 3:7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
- ❖ Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
- ❖ John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.
- ❖ 2 Thessalonians 2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,
- ❖ Ephesians 1:7-8 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight
- ❖ Romans 5:15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.
- ❖ Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- ❖ Romans 5:20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,
- ❖ Galatians 2:21 "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

We must be careful that we do not fall into salvation by works. Our redemption is by the Grace of God and His Grace only. True the bible says that faith without works is dead but it is by grace that we are saved. We are simply saved by His grace, and the definition of the word "grace" in this context is God's unmerited favor, love and mercy toward all of us.

The simplicity of the gospel message is this that God loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross to pay our sin debt. All that we can do to receive this free gift of eternal life from God is to accept the sacrifice of His Son by faith.

Here is the major Key Verse in the bible that spells this truth out to us. Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Ritualism, legalism, and works are out the door when it comes to being able to receive our eternal salvation through Jesus. This is a fundamental truth to the Christian Faith from the Word of God and therefore is unchangeable.

Key Verses

Romans 3:23, 1 John 4:19, Galatians 6:14, Ephesians 2:8, Galatians 2:16, Romans 3:20,23, 2 Timothy 1:9, Romans 11:6, Romans 5:1-2, Titus 2:11, Acts 15:11, Ephesians 2:4-7, Titus 3:7, Romans 3:23-24, John 1:17, 2 Thessalonians 2:16, Ephesians 1:7-8, Romans 5:15, Ephesians 1:6, Romans 5:20, Galatians 2:21, James 2:26, Romans 10:9.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God

Jesus Christ is the Son of God is the one truth that separates the Christian faith from all other religions. The denial of the deity of Jesus Christ is what makes all other religions false.

If you believe that the entire Bible is truly the inspired and infallible Word of God. Then the following six verses leave no question to the truth of Jesus Christ. As you study the Old Testament prophases you will see that much of the prophecy pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. The life and ministry of Jesus fulfilled all of the prophecy concerning the coming Messiah.

- ❖ John 3:15-18 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- ❖ Luke 1:31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.
- ❖ 1 John 4:14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.
- ❖ 1 John 5:11-12 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- ❖ Hebrews 1:1-4 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.
- ❖ John 20:30-31 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so

that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

The Incarnation of Jesus Christ

In the Christian faith we believe that Jesus Christ is both God and Lord in the Divine Trinity. That Jesus is the Son of God, God Himself who came down in the flesh to die on the cross as a sacrificial lamb for all of our sins.

The Creator, God, became as the created in human flesh in the person of Jesus. God became as a human, the uniting of divinity and humanity in the person of Jesus, with the express purpose of saving that which was lost to sin.

To think that God the Father would send His only begotten Son, Jesus, who is both God and Lord and the second person in the Divine Trinity, to become a man in the flesh and still keep His full divinity in the Godhead, is the mystery of the gospel revealed. This fundamental of Christian faith when meditated upon will lift your spirit ever higher as the reality seeks deep into your heart.

The Apostles' Creed sums this up beautifully.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead .I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Another consideration to grasp is that demons are not allowed to confess the true identity of Jesus Christ. If demons cannot make this confession when being tested then you know this is a powerful, divine fact of reality.

The proving verse is 1 John 4:1-3 and reads:

1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

This basic fundamental belief of Christians is so powerful that if taken away Christianity would not be possible.

Key Verse

John 1:1, Rom 16:25-27, Eph 3:9, 1 John 4:1-3.

The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Without this basic fundamental belief in the Christian faith there would be no eternal salvation for any of us. If Jesus did not fully raise from the grave on the third day then our belief in Jesus would completely fall apart. Jesus has to fully be resurrected from the dead for His gospel message to be complete.

These five verses from the bible not only show that Jesus rose from the grave on the third day but also all our teaching and faith in Him would be in vain if He was not our risen Lord.

- ❖ John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
- ❖ Luke 24:46-47 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.
- ❖ Acts 1:1-3 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:12-18 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if

Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished

The last verse from Paul makes the importance of Jesus' resurrection from the grave. Paul notes that not only would all our teaching of the gospel message be in vain but also our faith. Paul also makes the point that without the resurrection of Jesus there would be no eternal life for any of us, as we all would still be dead in our sins.

This last verse from Paul also makes this fundament of our Christian faith an absolute essential. This basic fundamental of our faith must always be included when sharing the gospel and leading someone to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Key verse

John 11:25, Luke 24:46-47, 1 Corinthians 15:20, Acts 1:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:12-18.

The Ascension of Jesus Christ

Forty days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ He bid farewell to His chosen apostils and ascended into heaven. This supernatural event is also a basic fundamental of the Christian faith.

These five verses tell us that Jesus ascended back up to heaven after completing His earthly mission.

- ❖ Luke 24:50-51 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.
- ❖ Acts 1:9-11 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."
- ❖ John 20:17 Jesus *said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"
- ❖ John 3:13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.

- ❖ John 6:62 "What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?"

With the ascension of Jesus the greatest story ever told was now complete. But just as Jesus ascended into heaven soon He shall descend from heaven in view that every eye shall see and a greater story will be revealed to us.

Key Verse

Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1:9-11, John 20:17, John 3:13, John 6:62.

The Doctrine of the Trinity

This fundamental belief in the Christian faith is by faith in the fullness of its meaning. There is no single verse in the bible that points directly to this doctrine. We have to accept this truth entirely on faith. This truth can be summed up in one simple statement, "One God in three persons."

There are verses in the bible that strongly imply the truth of this belief. In Geneses the first indication is found in Geneses 1:26 where it says, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." "Us", refers to the trinity of the Godhead, the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is a concept that is hard to understand and I don't think we at this present time are capable to fully comprehend it.

Considering the wonders of God and His creation there is much that we will not be able to comprehend while here on earth. In Isaiah 55:8-9 God tells us that we will not be able to fully understand Him. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts."

Man has been in existence for a portion of time now and has yet to understand the world in which we live, hasn't even scratched the complexities of the universe, and I am sure will always be in marvel of the wonders of God throughout eternity.

The following verses will help us to see the attributes of each person in the Godhead with each Person of the Divine Trinity being co-eternal and co-equal.

God the Father is God and Lord Himself

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him
- ❖ Isaiah 44: 6-8 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me. 'Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; Yes, let him recount it to Me in order, From the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming And the events that are going to take place. 'Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.'"
- ❖ Isaiah 43:10-13 "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. "I, even I, am the LORD, And there is no savior besides Me. "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And I am God."Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

Jesus Christ is God and Lord Himself

- ❖ John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- ❖ John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- ❖ Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
- ❖ Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,
- ❖ Philippians 2:9-11 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- ❖ Colossians 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
- ❖ John 14:10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.
- ❖ John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

- ❖ Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

The Holy Spirit is God and Lord Himself

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
- ❖ Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."
- ❖ Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
- ❖ Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

God is the Father, God is the Son, and God is the Spirit. 1 John 5:7-8 For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

Key Verses

1 Corinthians 8:6, Isaiah 44: 6-8, Isaiah 43:10-13, John 1:1, John 1:14, Isaiah 9:6, Titus 2:13, Philippians 2:9-11, Colossians 2:9, John 14:10, John 10:30, Revelation 22:13, 2 Corinthians 3:17, Acts 5:3-4, Psalm 139:7, Hebrews 9:14, 1 Corinthians 2:11, Gen. 1:26, 1 John 5:7-8, Isa 55:8-9.

The Holy Bible is the Inspired and Infallible Word of God

A foundational fundamental belief in the Christian faith is that the bible is the inspired Word of God given to man by Holy men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The bible written by the hand of men through the leading of His Spirit is in each and every word the

absolute, infallible, inerrant Word of God. There is no power in the universe greater than the Word of God. The creation of the universe was ordered by God's Word.

Two key verses in the bible give us a direct revelation that the bible has been given to us by the inspiration of God through the Holy Spirit.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." (2 Peter 1:20-21)

These two verses tell us without any other possible interpretation that the bible was written under the inspiration of God by Holy men who were led by the Holy Spirit. The scriptures in the bible have been given to man and are profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and the training in righteousness so that we will be equipped for our Kingdom work in His service.

Key Verses

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21.

We Are Baptized With the Holy Spirit at the Moment of Salvation

A fundamental belief of the Christian faith is that once we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at that moment.

The bible teaches that there is one Baptism, and that Baptism is when we receive the Holy Spirit into our human spirit at the moment of our conversion.

The following verses are key verses that will show us that we receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of our conversion into our faith in Jesus Christ. The first verse tells us that there is only one Baptism. The second verse tells us that we receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of our conversion. The third and fourth verse tells us that it is the Holy Spirit Himself that we are being Baptized with. The remaining verses tell us that the Holy Spirit is living inside of us sealing us with His presence.

- ❖ Ephesians 4:4-5 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
- ❖ Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Matthew 3:11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- ❖ Mark 1:8 "I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.
- ❖ Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
- ❖ Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
- ❖ Ephesians 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 1:21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,
- ❖ Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

The Holy Spirit is God and Lord Himself and is the third Person of the Triune Godhead. When we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, we get to receive the Holy Spirit at that exact moment, not sometime later. As such, this revelation from the Lord has to also be considered a basic fundamental of the Christian faith.

Key Verses

Ephesians 4:4-5, Acts 2:38, Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 1 Corinthians. 1 Corinthians 3:17, Romans 8:9, Romans 8:11, Ephesians 4:30, 2 Corinthians 1:21, Ephesians 1:13, 2 Corinthians 5:5.

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit

Once we are baptized into our faith in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit our human spirit will be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. The following verse gives us this specific revelation from the Lord.

“But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4-7)

First this verse tells us that we are saved by the grace of God, “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy”. God is saving us “through” the “the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit”.

Second this verse tells us the Holy Spirit is doing the regeneration work Himself, the words “regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit”.

Here are some definitions for the word regeneration from several bible dictionaries.

- Spiritually reborn
- Spiritual rebirth producing a new beginning
- A spiritual rebirth, being renewed, reformed or reconstituted
- Renewed or restored after a decline to a low condition
- New birth, the begetting of new life
- Renewal of moral and spiritual nature

Once we were dead in our sins but now we are alive through Christ in the regeneration of our spirit by the grace of God. Therefore we are born again in the spirit by the work of the Holy Spirit restoring a right relationship between us and God. The following verse tells us Jesus' explanation of being born again.

"Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus *said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:3-5)

Jesus is saying that one must be born again in the spirit by the Holy Spirit's work or he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Without the work of the Holy Spirit after our acceptance of Jesus as our Lord and Savior we would not be able to enter the Kingdom of God.

Key Verses

Titus 3:4-7, Ephesians 2:4-5, John 3:3-5.

The Doctrine of Hell

Many in the liberal part of the church are trying to do away with the truth of Hell. They cannot believe that a God of love would send the unrighteous to a place like hell for eternal torment. If anyone tries to tell you there is no hell, they have been deceived by the soon to be chief resident of hell.

The bible is very clear in its statement that there is a hell and those who have not accepted Jesus Christ as their person Lord and Savior are bound to spend eternity there.

Here are some of the many verses in the bible that make it very clear that there is a hell and to our sorrow many will spend eternity there.

- ❖ 2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;
- ❖ John 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.
- ❖ Matthew 10:28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- ❖ Matthew 13:41-43 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.
- ❖ Matthew 13:49-50 "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- ❖ Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;
- ❖ Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

- ❖ Luke 3:17 "His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
- ❖ 2 Thessalonians 1:9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
- ❖ Revelation 9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.
- ❖ Luke 3:9 "Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."
- ❖ Revelation 14:9-11 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb." And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."
- ❖ Revelation 21:8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
- ❖ Jude 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.
- ❖ Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.

Key Verses

2 Peter 2:4, John 15:6, Matthew 10:28, Matthew 13:41-43, Matthew 13:49-50, Matthew 25:41, Luke 13:3, Luke 3:17, 2 Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 9:1, Luke 3:9, Revelation 14:9-11, Revelation 21:8, Jude 7, Ecclesiastes 9:10.

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

The bible teaches that Jesus will be coming down to earth two separate times. Jesus has come once as a man of sorrows and will come again as a reigning Messiah. Jesus has already come the first time and our Christian Faith is built on that truth.

When Jesus comes the second time it will be to rule the world from His Holy City of Jerusalem in Israel. Jesus will rule the entire earth from Jerusalem for 1000 years.

After the 1000-year Millennium Kingdom God the Father will come down with a new heaven and a new earth and rule amongst His people with His Son Jesus for all of eternity.

The following scriptures tell us that Jesus will be ruling the earth from His Holy City of Jerusalem for the Millennium.

- ❖ Psalm 2:4-9 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain." "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"
- ❖ Luke 1:32-33 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."
- ❖ Daniel 2:44 "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.
- ❖ Daniel 7:13-14 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.
- ❖ Isaiah 9:6-7 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.
- ❖ Zechariah 8:3 "Thus says the LORD, 'I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.'
- ❖ Zechariah 2:10-12 "Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," declares the LORD. "Many nations will join themselves to the LORD in that day and will become My people. Then I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. "The

LORD will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

- ❖ Ezekiel 37:26-27 "I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. "My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.
- ❖ Ezekiel 43:5-7 And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house. Then I heard one speaking to me from the house, while a man was standing beside me. He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever. And the house of Israel will not again defile My holy name, neither they nor their kings, by their harlotry and by the corpses of their kings when they die,
- ❖ Zechariah 8:21-23 'The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, "Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go." 'So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.' "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."
- ❖ Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea
- ❖ Revelation 21:3-5 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He *said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."
- ❖ Revelation 21: 22-27 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.
- ❖ Revelation 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.
- ❖ Revelation 21:10-21 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven

from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Key Verse

Isa 53:3, Psalm 2:4-9, Luke 1:32-33, Daniel 2:44, Daniel 7:13-14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Zechariah 8:3, Zechariah 2:10-12, Ezekiel 37:26-27, Ezekiel 43:5-7, Zechariah 8:21-23, Revelation 21:1, Revelation 21:3-5, Revelation 21: 22-27, Revelation 21:2, Revelation 21:10-21.

CONCLUSION

All religions claim to be true but they are built on man's own reasoning and result in an undesirable end for their believers. Many are led astray and buy into these false religions and in the end they lead to destruction.

There is but one true God and all other God's are graven images created by man. The one who rules this world, the Prince of the Air, is Satan himself who has come to rob, steal, and destroy. Satan is a master of deception and will twist every truth to lead people astray.

It is important that you as a Christian placing your Faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior to be solid in knowing what you believe. The world will test your faith and you must know that you know what you know in order to stand solid on the rock.

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We at Durant Bible College hope you have enjoyed this course and that it has helped you to grow in spiritual maturity. We hope to further share with you the testimony of God through God's Word.

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