

The Apostle's Faith

# The Apostles Faith

Who were they? What did they believe?  
Do I believe the same way they do?

By

Dwight J. Davis

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## Introduction

The entire New Testament portion of the bible was written by Jesus' disciples, also known as the Apostles. These men were ordinary people without wealth, position, or power. In just a few years, they managed to turn the whole world upside down. Apostolic Christianity emerged as a dynamic force for change in a world that accepted slavery, corruption, violence, and immorality as the normal consequence of daily life.

The story of the Apostles is a fascinating glimpse of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. What is more exciting however, is to know what they taught after their 3 ½ years with Jesus.

Jesus commissioned these Apostles to build His Church. In this building project, Jesus should be thought of as the financier. He paid for the construction of the New City, but it was His Apostles that built it.

But what materials did the Apostles build this New City with? That's the purpose of this booklet: to teach us the Apostle's faith.

In the pages that follow, the biblical writings of the Apostle's are plainly expounded so that you may understand what they taught.

To begin, there is only ONE Apostle's faith, as the scripture verifies.

Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, **one faith**, one baptism

This scripture speaks loudly considering the myriad of Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and non-Protestant Churches that exist throughout the world today.

## What is an apostle?

An apostle is literally one who is sent as a messenger to represent the message and mission of another. Jesus criteria in choosing an apostle was based on their faithfulness in loyally representing the "whole counsel" of His will and word.

Many wonder why Jesus chose uneducated fishermen and ordinary laymen for such an important mission as building His Church. Why didn't Jesus choose educated scholars or rich and powerful leaders of His day? The answer is quite simple: Jesus looks at the heart, not the wallet, attractiveness, prestige, or education of those He chooses. This is why Jesus chose the 12 disciples who were to become the 12 Apostles.

First, an apostle was used by the Lord in a similar fashion as were the Old Testament prophets. They were direct representatives of God's voice. However, the Apostles' calling went beyond just being a mouthpiece. An apostle also functioned like a priest in his mission to reconcile the lost to God. Therefore, Jesus asked them to be servant leaders as well as trustees or stewards of the faith.

Like the Messiah Jesus himself, the Apostle's carried on the Kingdom building mission Jesus had started among the Jews

As a servant priest, an Apostle was asked to sacrifice his worldly goals, ambition, and aspirations for a new overriding mission: to bring people everywhere into a close relationship with the living God.

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As a steward or manager of God's valuables, an Apostle was a keeper of the sacred words of Jesus as well as a witness to His resurrection. An Apostle was directly accountable to Jesus for the mission he was sent to accomplish.

We first see the use of the word "apostle" in

Luke 6:13 And when it was day, **he called** unto him **his disciples**: and of them **he chose twelve**, whom also **he named apostles**.

Luke shows us the progression and process of how the LORD selected the apostles. First, apostles are **chosen** from among a greater number of **disciples** who are **called** by Jesus to serve Him. Jesus narrowed His choice to 12 men then announced their names.

This selective choice represents God's acknowledgment of someone's character. These human characteristics have nothing to do with charisma, intellect, or education. A person's suitability for Apostleship seems to be based on only one quality: the willingness to suffer all and forsake all at the will of the master. Jesus called this being 'perfect'.

Matthew 19:21 ... If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.

The names of the 12 men chosen are listed 4 times sequentially in scripture. Comparing the lists, we see a difference in the order of names although what is really important is that the names are complete numerically.

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<b>Matthew 10:2-4</b>	<b>Mark 3:16-19</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Simon Peter, Son of Jonah</li> <li>2. Andrew, Simon's Brother</li> <li>3. James Boanerges     Son of Zebedee</li> <li>4. John Boanerges     Son of Zebedee</li> <li>5. Philip</li> <li>6. Bartholomew</li> <li>7. Thomas Didymus</li> <li>8. Matthew the Publican</li> <li>9. James (the Lesser)     Son of Alphaeus</li> <li>10. Jude (Lebbaeus Thaddaeus)     Son of Alphaeus</li> <li>11. Simon Zelotes the Canaanite</li> <li>12. Judas Iscariot     Son of Simon</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Simon Peter, Son of Jonah</li> <li>2. James Boanerges     Son of Zebedee</li> <li>3. John Boanerges     Son of Zebedee</li> <li>4. Andrew, Simon's Brother</li> <li>5. Philip</li> <li>6. Bartholomew</li> <li>7. Matthew the Publican</li> <li>8. Thomas Didymus</li> <li>9. James (the Lesser)     Son of Alphaeus</li> <li>10. Jude (Lebbaeus Thaddaeus)     Son of Alphaeus</li> <li>11. Simon Zelotes the Canaanite</li> <li>12. Judas Iscariot     Son of Simon</li> </ol>
<b>Luke 6:14-16</b>	<b>Acts 1:13</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Simon Peter, Son of Johan</li> <li>2. Andrew, Simon's Brother</li> <li>3. James Boanerges     Son of Zebedee</li> <li>4. John Boanerges     Son of Zebedee</li> <li>5. Philip</li> <li>6. Bartholomew</li> <li>7. Matthew the Publican</li> <li>8. Thomas Didymus</li> <li>9. James (the Lesser)     Son of Alphaeus</li> <li>10. Simon Zelotes the Canaanite</li> <li>11. Jude (Lebbaeus Thaddaeus)     Son of Alphaeus</li> <li><b>12. Judas Iscariot</b>     Son of Simon</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Simon Peter, Son of Jonah</li> <li>2. James Boanerges     Son of Zebedee</li> <li>3. John Boanerges     Son of Zebedee</li> <li>4. Andrew, Simon's Brother</li> <li>5. Philip</li> <li>6. Thomas Didymus</li> <li>7. Bartholomew</li> <li>8. Matthew the Publican</li> <li>9. James (the Lesser)     Son of Alphaeus</li> <li>10. Simon Zelotes the Canaanite</li> <li>11. Jude (Lebbaeus Thaddaeus)     Son of Alphaeus</li> <li><b>12. Matthias</b></li> </ol>

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Luke the physician, a scribe and disciple of Paul, wrote both the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. In Luke 6, he lists the apostles in the order they were called sequentially. In Acts 1, he possibly lists them in terms of importance of their ministry or servitude among the brethren.

Note that Matthias in Acts 1 replaced Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus.

## 2 Types of Apostles

In the New Testament, there are two types of apostles:

1. Apostles chosen by Jesus as a Jerusalem council of Theology
2. Apostles chosen by men who were sent to plant Churches

In the book of Acts, Paul and Barnabas are referred to as Apostles when they enter the city of Lystra. They were on the first missionary journey sent by the Spirit and the Church of Antioch. In its meaning beyond the Jerusalem Theology council, the word Apostles is best described today by the word Missionary.

One peculiar note about Paul is that he had a vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus. In recounting this vision, Paul explains that he was not chosen through a human election process but by Jesus himself.

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (**not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ**, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

As we know, Matthias was chosen by the 11 remaining apostles after the suicide of Judas Iscariot. They chose Matthias by casting lots, very much like the High Priest cast lots of Urim and Thumim to divine God's will. Thus, Matthias qualifies as an apostle of man, just as Barnabas who later ministered with Paul, was ordained an apostle by the Apostles residing in Jerusalem.

After being instructed to wait for power in Jerusalem, Peter felt impressed to put someone in Judas Iscariot's position in anticipation of "the promise of the Father". Giving this as his reason for doing so, he combined two passages from the Psalms. This happened at a meeting of the disciples immediately after Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mt. of Olives.

Psalm 69: 25 Let their (his) habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their (his) tents (tent). [The New Testament in Acts 1:20 quotes the Old Greek Septuagint of 250 BC, whereas the KJV quotes the Masoretic Text of 950AD]

Psalms 109:8 Let his days be few; and let another take his office.

Motivated after reading these two Psalms, Peter puts two candidates before the Lord and the disciples before casting lots to divine God's choice. He explains his criteria for selecting the two men this way:

1. To select someone who was with them at the beginning, during John the Baptist's ministry at the Jordan River.
2. Peter believed that the candidate had to be an eyewitness of the resurrected body and person of Jesus Christ.

The New Testament tells us that there were many disciples of John the Baptist who left off at the Jordan River to follow Jesus. They heard John the Baptist openly declare that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", the anointed one. Matthias and Joseph son of Sabbas certainly were disciples of John the Baptist.

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Both men certainly witnessed seeing Jesus in His resurrected flesh, being part of the 120 who both saw Jesus ascend and who were filled with the Holy Spirit a few days later in Jerusalem.

Acts 1:15-26 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, *Aceldama*, that is to say, *The field of blood*. For it is written in the book of Psalms, *Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take*. Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

God had His Theology council of 12 Apostles, chosen to decide matters of Church order and administration.

Paul recounts his own calling and theology, stating that it was identical to the doctrines established by Peter and the Jerusalem council.

Galatians 1:10-24 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me **is not after man**. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; **immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me;** but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then **after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter**, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save **James the Lord's brother**. Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. And they glorified God in me.

Paul's revelation and teaching was found to be identical with Peter and James (the Lord's brother).

The Apostle John writes in his small epistle that this was known as the foundational teaching, the "Doctrine of Christ". But as we will learn, the "Doctrine of Christ" must first have a cornerstone in order for the foundation to be straight and plumb.

## Old City of the Law

New Jerusalem was a concept of a city with sure foundations. Also known as the city of God, New Jerusalem was to replace the Old Jerusalem.

Old Jerusalem had become an abomination to the LORD due to the fact that religious rulers there had murdered the prophets that God has sent to reform its religion from spiritual idolatry. God eventually calls



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the Old City "Sodom" as well as "Egypt". These are terms of rejection, identifying the Old City and its temple oriented sacrifice system as an impossible place for God to dwell with Israel.

Matthew 23:37-39 O **Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets**, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord

The Old City was destroyed 37 years after the crucifixion of Jesus by the Roman general Titus in 70AD. The majority of the people in the city either starved or were crucified after the Romans' set fire to the Jewish temple. Eventually, the Jewish people were extricated and enslaved throughout Europe after a final revolt from Rome in 130AD.

Jesus predicted this 70 AD destruction, even saying that not a single stone of the temple would remain standing (Matthew 24:2).

A key scripture in the book of Revelation identifies the Old City as "sin city". This scripture shows God's utter rejection of the Old Testament plan of salvation.

Revelation 11:3,8 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth...(8) And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, **where also our Lord was crucified**.

Two witnesses are raised up in the last days to prophesy or speak against the religion of the resurrected Old City of Jerusalem: "the Law" and temple cult sacrifice practices.

Jesus wept over this Old City because it rejected the preachers God had sent to it, carrying His message of love and salvation. Just as the Old City of Jerusalem killed the Old Testament prophets that were sent to it, so it also rejected and killed the Lord Himself in 33 AD.

## New City of Faith

Acknowledging that the Old City cannot be reformed and must be destroyed and replaced, Jesus forms His Church to become that replacement. This new spiritual city, New Jerusalem, is pictured in metaphor as if it was like the physical Old City with gates, walls, a temple, and a population of priests. However, it is dramatically different.

New Jerusalem citizens are not like the Old Jerusalem citizens. New Jerusalem citizens search for **Spiritual Foundations**, not physical foundations.

The New Jerusalem is a city of spiritual peace, not political peace. Even Abraham of the Old Testament searched for this city. He sojourned and wandered, yet conscious that what he was looking for was not a physical place of refuge from the world, but a place of spiritual refuge and rest inside God's love. Only God can build this City, inside the hearts of men.

Hebrews 11:8-10 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for **a city which hath foundations**, whose builder and maker is God.

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The bible tells us that finding New Jerusalem's location on the map is a journey of faith. As we discover it in Christ, we must explore, examine and learn about its foundations. These foundations are comprised of Spiritual principles, teachings, tests, and trials.

This City's temple, walls and foundations are all made from the same materials. The bible tells us that the foundation and temple of this New Jerusalem City is composed of three Spiritual materials:

1. Corner Stone – Jesus Christ
2. Prophets – From Moses to Malachi
3. Apostles – Jerusalem Theology council of 12

Ephesians 2: 19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but **fellowcitizens** with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the **foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ** himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto **an holy temple** in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for **an habitation of God through the Spirit**.

The bible identifies each individual Christian as the work under construction in this city. Individuals are the mansions Jesus is building in the New Jerusalem. That is, the place He is preparing for habitation for the eventual fullness of His Spirit.

Obviously, the most important aspect of this City begins at its temple. The Church of Jesus Christ is in reality, the earthly dwelling place or temple of the living God. The bible tells us that this temple's cornerstone must be laid down first and that its own geological material is likened unto rock or stone.

## The Chief Cornerstone of the City, a Rock: Jesus died for our sins

In Old Testament history, we find that Abraham (2000 BC) was told to sacrifice on Mt. Moriah. Moriah was the hill where Abraham found a rock to offer up his son Isaac to the LORD. This rock represented Abraham's heart and pledge to put God first before anything or anyone else.

This foundational bedrock decision proved that Abraham loved God as his most important and meaningful relationship in his life. Anyone or anything that became more important than his relationship with God was to be sacrificed on this rock, atop Mt. Moriah.

God of course, had no intention of allowing Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac. However, God put Abraham to the test in order to discover if Abraham loved God's blessing (Isaac) more than the blessing (God) Himself.

1,000 years later, this same rock atop Moriah became important again. Around 950 BC, Israel's King David was found with the sin of relying upon himself instead of God. He sinned by numbering Israel in a census to determine if he was strong enough to defeat the enemy.

Because of David's sin of depending on the people instead of God, judgment fell on the whole nation. God allowed David to choose from 3 judgments to teach David that his own decisions affected others and not just himself. David chose a judgment that in essence, put him and the nation of Israel into God's hands, not mans. Immediately a plague or sickness began to sweep Israel from the North to the South, eventually killing the very people David had numbered and relied upon.

In a vision, David overlooking Mt. Moriah from his own palace in Zion, saw the plague end at the exact location of the rock where Abraham had offered Isaac to God. Without knowing that this was actually the same rock of Abraham's trust, David felt compelled to purchase this parcel, which had been forgotten by everyone but God. When David purchased Mt. Moriah, it was being used as a threshing floor.

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Immediately David made plans to build a temple on this rock as a permanent resting place for God's presence on earth.

We discover the meaning of this spiritual cornerstone as it relates to the foundations, walls, and temple of the New Jerusalem. The rock atop Mt. Moriah was the place that a son was offered up as a sacrifice. Jesus, being the Son of God, was the reciprocal sacrifice God offered to prove His own love of mankind, just as Abraham offered Isaac up to prove his love for God. Therefore, when we read about the Chief Cornerstone or the Rock of Christ, we are immediately brought to Golgotha (Calvary) and Mt. Moriah.

It was at Golgotha that God offered His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for a world unable to escape the spiritual death brought about by sin. Notice that God did not demand that Isaac die, but only that Abraham keep God first in his life. But when it came to the Son of God, the Lord permitted His own creation, Jew and Gentile, to crucify His Son and thus, spill the blood needed to redeem and transform lost humanity into a new citizenship.

Paul writes about this Chief Cornerstone of Rock, which is the foundation of New Jerusalem.

I Corinthians 3:10-11 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For **other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

In this passage, Paul is telling us that we must build the City of God and the Temple of God on the foundation of Jesus' messianic mission: His sacrifice for our sins. Jesus confirmed this with some basic Carpentry instructions for us to follow.

Matthew 7:21-28 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto **a wise man, which built his house upon a rock**: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: **for it was founded upon a rock.** And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a **foolish man, which built his house upon the sand**: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, **the people were astonished at his doctrine**:

Jesus tells us that His doctrine, "The Doctrine of Christ", must only be built on this rock of sacrifice. Each Christian's house of course, is one of many mansions that the New Jerusalem contains within its walls. Each house must be built of the same materials although each will differ in size, shape, and aesthetics.

Jesus refers to the cornerstone or foundational rock of the New Jerusalem City many times throughout His ministry. Even the Old Testament Prophet's foretold of this cornerstone.

Isaiah 28:14-18 Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, **I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.** Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And **your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand**; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.

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The Prophet Isaiah foretells that the LORD of Hosts shall become a stumbling stone and an offensive rock to many, including the Jewish nation. Again, the idea of the Old Jerusalem comes directly from the prophetic writings, signifying in advance that God's chosen people will reject the cornerstone.

Isaiah 8:13-14 Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And **he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel**, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

The Apostle Peter picks up on these Old Testament prophecies as well, remembering what he heard Jesus teach concerning the rock that we should build our houses upon.

1 Peter 2:4-8 To whom coming, as unto **a living stone**, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, **Ye also, as lively stones**, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. **Unto you therefore which believe he is precious**: but unto **them which be disobedient**, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And **a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence**, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Paul corroborates Peter's discussion about the cornerstone rock, also repeating the Old Testament prophet Isaiah's warning that the nation of Israel would reject this cornerstone and stumble in their walk as God's chosen people.

God's "Law of Righteousness" could not be fulfilled by rote obedience to the ritual Law without "heart obedience" to the Spirit of the Law. This "heart obedience" is described as progressing from "belief" to "faith".

Belief is the conclusion of the mind that agrees, decides and accepts that the word of God is true. Belief then seeps slowly into the heart and has the potential to become Faith in human beings. Faith is the action that now proves what the human heart has accepted, that the word of God is true. Said another way, Faith is obedience to the truth the heart willingly believes.

Romans 9:31-33 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? **Because they sought it not by faith**, but as it were by the works of the law. For **they stumbled at that stumblingstone**; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

The Apostles instruct us that we must believe and have faith about the Cornerstone Rock of Sacrifice. That is, we must have faith in the death of Jesus Christ, not the old Temple system of sacrifices. But what does it mean to believe and have faith in Jesus death?

The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah and the New Testament Apostles Peter and Paul tell us that the Jewish nation will stumble at the concept of believing and having faith in Jesus sacrifice at Calvary. Said another way, most people in the world are disobedient to the faith in the power and meaning of Jesus death. Why is that?

Because not all head faith is heart faith. If a person rejects God's control over their carnal desires and decisions, heart faith is not in evidence. No ceremonial script or rote repetition of scripture of heartless obedience is acceptable to God. If people don't love the law or word of God as an expression of God's own personality and essence, then they do not truly love God.

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From another viewpoint, religion without a personal heart relationship with God is a whitewashed sepulcher. It looks good on the outside, but on the inside it's full of dead men's bones. It won't give resurrection life to anyone.

Paul expresses this when he calls Jesus sacrificial death on the cross the "Law of Righteousness", thus equating Jesus death to all of the Law Moses received from God while on Mt. Sinai. Israel's error or sin was that they liked the ritual and tradition of religion, but forgot as a people, to seek God for the heartfelt obedience to the law that can only come by a close intimate relationship with God personally.

If we don't seek Jesus for a heart sincere relationship that believes and grows into obedience (faith) to His word and Spirit, then His death like the Old Testament Law, will also be a stumbling stone unto us.

When we believe and continue to believe on Jesus, we are in reality obediently surrendering our will and our actions to His will and word. This is the precious obedient faith God is looking for.

The next questions are "What is His will and what is His word"?

That is answered by His Apostles. They called it the "Doctrine of Christ". But to learn the "Doctrine of Christ", you must be willing to stick with Jesus, even when you find it difficult to obey or understand. This makes you chosen by the Lord. Every one of us must leave all behind to follow Jesus; our tradition, family, friends, occupation, even children. It has to matter that much.

## Being Perfect

The Apostle's left all of their previous friends, family, and finances behind when they followed Jesus. Jesus knew their hearts better than they did. When He chose them and called them, He knew what they were made of. But the quality they all possessed, with the exception of Judas, was their love of Jesus mission, words, and person.

Many others had left Jesus when He preached a hard message that smashed religious tradition and made Him and all of them unpopular. But not the twelve disciples! They hung in there.

"Hanging in there" is the tell tale sign Jesus is looking for in human character. This inward pearl of great price may be called the true test of faith. It is the core character trait of the "true Christian". When the majority leaves Jesus, the faithful remain.

John 6:66-70 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? **thou hast the words of eternal life.** And we believe and are sure that **thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.** Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

Because the twelve Apostles did not run from truth as the majority crowd did, Jesus gave them the privilege of teaching the **Doctrine of Christ**, the building materials of His New City. They became the replacement builders.

The nation of Israel had a religious tradition based on the Levitical priesthood. These Levites are referred to as builders. When Jesus came as their Messiah and Deliverer, they rejected His mission, person, and words. They also disallowed His sacrifice. This is the stone they rejected thereby forfeiting their place as builders. God fired them and hired the Apostles.

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The Apostle John, being a wise master builder, mentions the **Doctrine of Christ**, but is careful to wrap it in the warning that many will not practice it. As you will see, all of the Apostles taught this **Doctrine**.

In many religious organizations that exist on earth today, leaders will vehemently preach against the very word and concept of **Doctrine**. They do this to create interfaith unity. Their fear is that if their differences and distinctive attributes are actually contended for, then people of different faiths cannot cooperate on other issues, especially political issues.

The Apostle John warns us against this false unity spirit, as it is the very spirit of compromise that waters down truth and power that comes only from the word of God. The only unity God is interested in is when we agree with Him, His Apostles, and His doctrine.

## The 'Doctrine of Christ', Building Materials of the City

2 John 1:7-11 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the **doctrine of Christ**, hath not God. He that abideth in the **doctrine of Christ**, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and **bring not this doctrine, receive him not** into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

This foundational teaching of the Apostles is laid down upon the cornerstone, which we already have learned is the rock of sacrifice. We read that the Apostle's taught this doctrine and their converts continued so steadfastly in this doctrine, that they filled all of Old Jerusalem City with it. Finally, individual disciples were told to teach no other doctrine, to give attention to the doctrine, and that the **Doctrine of Christ** is able to bring salvation.

So why are some people against doctrine?

The Apostle John tells us that many will fall away from the doctrine and will begin teaching something human. John esteemed the doctrine that Jesus had passed on to the disciples before He ascended into heaven. He was very concerned that "deceivers" would rob the Church of the things wrought (revealed, brought forth).

The things that were precious and brought forth by the Apostles was first and foremost that Jesus Christ was human (in the flesh) in every way, just like us. He was the "son of David", born of a human Jewish mother, but also the "Son of God", conceived by the Holy Spirit. This indeed is a mystery.

Many deceivers had begun to propagate the lie that Jesus wasn't a reality, but a divine mirage. John strongly called this deception antichrist. Stronger words or warning are not possible from an apostle.

But John progresses and tells us that anyone who claims to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and yet, does not live, breathe, and eat (abide in) the **Doctrine of Christ**, is not sent from God.

John the Apostle concludes by making a fabulous statement about the incarnation of Jesus Christ (God in Christ, the mystery). He says that if we "live in" the **Doctrine of Christ**, then we possess the great truth of the incarnation. That great truth is that Jesus is the "Father" and Jesus is the "Son". Said another way, Jesus is the One God manifest or incarnated in the flesh of a human being (1 Timothy 3:16). That makes Jesus both the creator (Father) and the one created (Son). Only God could do this, a true mystery of godliness!

John concludes all of this by instructing us not to help or give approval to any Christian who doesn't bring this doctrine with him. By aiding anyone who doesn't preach the **Doctrine of Christ**, we become

## The Apostle's Faith

participants and are accountable for the evil that results from the deception preached. (See also 1 John 2:18-26)

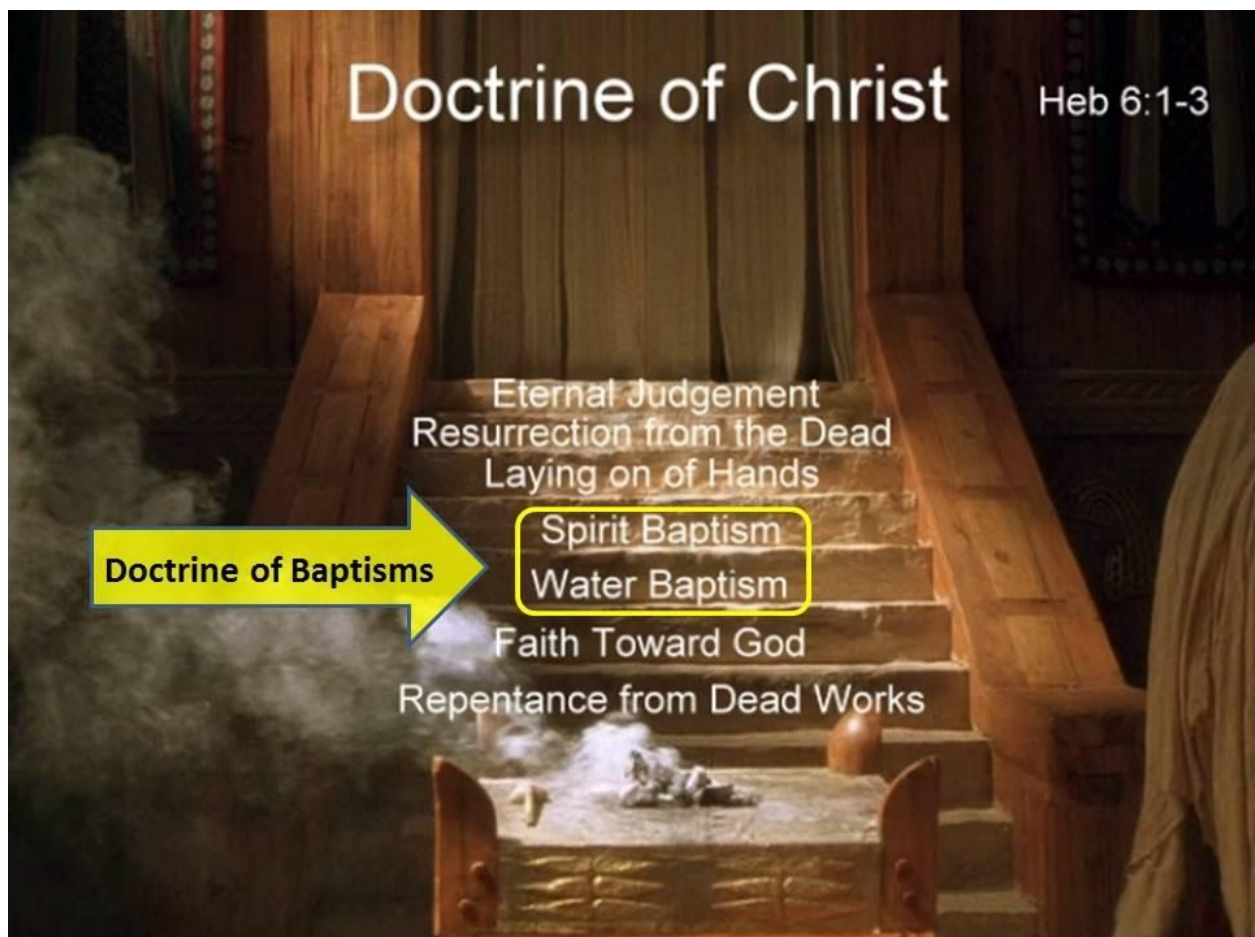
So what is it? What is the Doctrine of Christ? What are its elements and details?

The "Doctrine of Christ" is composed of **7 foundational teachings**. Each Christian must learn and base their lives upon these foundations, building on the rock:

Hebrews 6: 1-3 Therefore leaving the **principles of the doctrine of Christ**, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again **the foundation of** repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.

Listing the elements in the Doctrine of Christ found in Hebrews 6 below, notice the 7 fold teaching as it appears plainly to us:

1. Repentance from Dead Works
2. Faith Toward God
3. Doctrine of Water Baptism (Doctrine of Baptisms)
4. Doctrine of Spirit Baptism (Doctrine of Baptisms)
5. Laying on of Hands
6. Resurrection from the Dead
7. Eternal Judgment



## The Apostle's Faith

The Doctrine of Christ is colored with concepts from the Old Testament and the Levitical Law. It is found clearly articulated in the book of Hebrews and referenced by John the Apostle in his epistles.

The book of Hebrews and the Book of Revelation are both written from a Jewish perspective, giving information that would require an understanding of the old Jewish Temple and its priesthood. Most likely, someone of a Levitical background was used to communicate the truth of the "Doctrine of Christ" from the standpoint of the Old Temple and its Old Priesthood, which passed away.

So let's begin at the first step of learning this doctrine, the first foundation of the City of New Jerusalem.

### ***1. Repentance from Dead Works***

Repentance is a "John the Baptist" word.

Matthew 3:1 -2 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, **Repent** ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Jesus called John the baptizer the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. He was sent by the Lord to prepare the way for the Messiah. His message was from God and as we have already learned, Jesus own disciples came from John the Baptist's followers.

Repentance from dead works is our response to the price paid for the cornerstone of the New city. Repentance cannot occur until the individual believer understands and accepts that trying to be good and acceptable by God is not adequate. Sin is too evil to be offset or paid for with penance of good deeds. The only sacrifice God will accept for sin is the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the only way we can reconcile with God and cause our sins to be thrust out of the way is to repent.

Repentance begins with the desire to forsake the old ways or lifestyle. It includes remorse for personal sins previously committed that cannot be undone. Repentance is a turning away from the human ways of sinful living and logic, turning toward the Godly way of living and logic. However, repentance is not complete unless God Himself grants and gives it.

Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to **give repentance** to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles **granted repentance** unto life.

Jesus grants repentance to those who diligently seek it with a sincere desire to live for Him. Often, the seeker will feel the Holy Spirit of Jesus overcome them and a Godly sorrow (tearful emotion produced by the Spirit) will help the inner man surrender to God's will. This surrendering of the human will to God's divine will produces a cleansing of the conscience from shame and guilt for trespasses of the past. Relief floods the soul.

Repentance is a gift that Jesus paid for. It begins when the Spirit of God draws a sinner to a confrontation with the reality that he or she needs to change but cannot do so without God's help. That is the beginning of the process.

Repentance, if sincere, will produce a change in the nature and lifestyle of the human being when the divine Spirit intervenes and touches the corrupted human spirit. The Godly sorrow that results from this encounter begins the work of repentance that helps the human heart surrender to the transforming power of God's word, will, and Spirit.



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2 Corinthians 7:9-11 Now I rejoice, not that ye were **made sorry**, but that ye **sorrowed to repentance**: for ye were made **sorry after a godly manner**, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly **sorrow worketh repentance to salvation** not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, **what carefulness it wrought in you**, yea, **what clearing of yourselves**, yea, **what indignation**, yea, **what fear**, yea, **what vehement desire**, yea, **what zeal**, yea, **what revenge!** In all things ye have approved yourselves **to be clear** in this matter.

The result of true transforming repentance (signs of repentance) is 7 fold:

1. Carefulness of Lifestyle (cleaning up our act)
2. Clearing of the Conscience (from guilt and shame)
3. Indignant attitude opposed to the old selfish pleasure oriented sins of the past
4. Fear of displeasing God (new attitude that appreciates Jesus coupled with a desire to please Him first)
5. Vehement desire to serve God's purpose and plan for our new life in Christ (seeking His will)
6. Zeal in living a new life in Christ (walking upright)
7. Revenge on the devil; opposing him (for robbing you of many years of purposeful joyful living)

Like John the Baptist, Jesus upon the commissioning of His ministry, preached the same divine message of repentance. He wanted everyone to know that if they did repent (turn toward God), they would be candidates to enter His kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

What's more, it is not God's will that anyone die without repenting. People are not predestined to be saved or lost. It is our choice to repent by turning toward God. Repentance is possible for anyone who seeks after it, no matter how awful their sins of the past. If we do our part in seeking repentance, God will grant repentance according to His word.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that **all should come to repentance**.

A survivor of the Nazi Holocaust described the Jewish concept of repentance this way. He said, "Repentance is not truly repentance, until you have the opportunity to repeat the same mistake again, but you don't."

What he is saying is that it is possible to be sorry for a sin and even truthfully confess the sin to God. However, repentance is not complete until it is tested. The bible calls this the "fruits" of repentance. That is, a lifestyle change that produces a new way of doing things.

Matthew 3:7-8 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore **fruits meet for repentance**:

Many times when the Lord helps us repent, He will ask us to make restitution. He will also ask us to forgive others their trespasses against us just as He forgave us our trespasses against Him. He may further ask us to apologize and restore what may have been destroyed by our past. Although it may be humbling, the end result is beneficial to all, especially to the person who obeys.

Finally, repentance is not to be a historical experience. It must be a continual attitude and action when we inadvertently fall into sin or trespasses. Confessing our sins and weaknesses to a loving God as they are revealed to us, is an eternal life insurance policy all of us need to continue to make investment in.

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To summarize, dead works are good deeds of self-justification. We will never be good enough nor can we do enough to cancel our past mistakes. We all need to repent or turn from the attitude of waiting to serve God until we are good enough or have done enough. We must come to Jesus first, admit our need for His help, seek His forgiveness, and then allow Him to change us. God waits for us to turn to Him and Him alone in repentance. No human priest is required.

## **2. Faith toward God**

Faith is not invisible. It is something that can be seen. Belief however, is invisible. It cannot be seen. That is why the Apostle James states the following so vehemently:

James 2:17-20 Even so **faith, if it hath not works, is dead**, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and **I will shew thee my faith** by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the **devils also believe**, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

James is telling us that believing is invisible just as the Spiritual realm is invisible. Believing is a mental exercise that is positive and beneficial. However, believing by itself is not faith. Faith is an action, a movement, a demonstration of belief.

Devils do not act, move, or demonstrate on behalf of God. They do not have faith in Him. However, they tremble and are afraid because they all know that one day, God will cast them into an Abyss of punishment for their rebellion (James 2:19). They believe God's word is true.

Unlike devils, human beings have the opportunity to reveal belief by acting out that belief in God. Faith is visible evidence of invisible belief.

Hebrews 11:1 Now **faith is the substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence of things not seen**.

Faith in reality is obedience or acting upon the word and voice of God. If the word of God says we must obey something, then Faith acts and obeys. It makes our agreement with God's word (belief) visible!

Obedient Faith is the highest form of love a believer can demonstrate toward the invisible God. It is positive that God and His word can be trusted. It is led by the voice of His Spirit into actions that produce salvation, signs, and wonders.

Jesus describes Faith as obedience. He acknowledges the power of Faith by letting us know that even though we may consider our obedience small and insignificant, it has great results. Notice the **Sycamine Tree** in the scripture below. It represents us, the believer in Christ. It obeys the word when it is revealed, even though it seems difficult or impossible. Jesus views this as "mustard seed faith".

Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, **If ye had faith** as a grain of mustard seed, ye might **say** unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and **it should obey you**

Since a mustard seed is very small, it doesn't take much obedient faith to produce great results.

The bible goes on to verify that faith is in reality obedience. Scripture describes that many of the Temple Priests in the days of the Apostles became Christian disciples. It describes their faith with one word: obedience!

Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were **obedient to the faith**.

This concept of action oriented, obedient faith, is found again and again throughout the word of God. Even Jesus was obedient and faithful. The bible says that the very salvation Jesus suffered for belongs to those who obey Him.

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Hebrews 5:8-9 Though he were a Son, yet **learned he obedience** by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the **author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him**;

When Paul refers to the **Doctrine of Christ** as "the truth", he chastises the early Galatian Church because they stumbled at the rock of offence. We learned that this rock is forgiveness and reconciliation, purchased at Golgotha by Jesus obedience to the will of the Father. The Galatians deviated from the "Doctrine of Christ", failing to obey it.

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, **that ye should not obey the truth**, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath **been evidently set forth, crucified among you**?

The Apostles filled Old Jerusalem with the **Doctrine of Christ**.

The Jewish leaders of the San Hedrin council began to see their religious power lose its grip on the population. To stop these apostles, they arrested them and brought them before the religious council.

When told to stop preaching in the name of Jesus and spreading the doctrine, Peter led the rest of the Apostles in their response. "We ought to OBEY God rather than men." (Acts 5:29). Peter concludes his anointed message to these religious men by telling them that the Holy Ghost is given, just like repentance is given, to those who OBEY God.

Faith is obedience. It is how you make your belief visible.

### **3. & 4. Doctrine of Baptisms**

It is not by accident that the foundation of the New Jerusalem is further built upon the doctrine of water and spirit baptism. Jesus taught this very fact to the religious ruler Nicodemus who was afraid to have anyone find out that he believed in Jesus.

John 3:1-5 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born of water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Jesus told Nicodemus that if he was ever going to get to "see" the kingdom of God, then he would have to be born again. Jesus went on and told him that being born again meant that a 2<sup>nd</sup> birth of water and a 2<sup>nd</sup> birth of Spirit had to occur. This might seem confusing to someone unless they understood that Jesus was talking about the doctrine of baptisms.

The doctrine of baptisms is specific. It is what Jesus taught His apostles on how to be born again. It constitutes two immersions:

1. Water Baptism
2. Spirit Baptism

### **(3) Water Baptism**

Many in the religious world today teach that water baptism is not part of God's essential plan of salvation; the problem with buying into this idea however is that there is incredible witness in the scripture that repeatedly refute this idea.

First, let's look at who in the New Testament was water baptized.

#### **Jesus**

Matthew 3:13-15 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us **to fulfil all righteousness**. Then he suffered him.

#### **Paul**

Acts 22:12-16 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. And now why tarriest thou? **arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**

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### Cornelius & his family

Acts 10:44-48 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, **Can any man forbid water**, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? **And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord**. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

### Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8:34-39 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, **they came unto a certain water**: and the eunuch said, **See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?** And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and **they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him**. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

### Macedonian Jailer

Acts 16:27-33 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And **he took them the same hour of the night**, and washed their stripes; **and was baptized, he and all his, straightway**.

## Does Water Baptism Save Us? Is it essential for Salvation?

Many in the church world today view baptism as a "work of the law". This is a mistaken view of grace as baptism is never listed in the Old Testament as one of the 613 laws. But let the Bible speak for itself about the necessity of water baptism.

1 Peter 3:20-21 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited **in the days of Noah**, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, **eight souls were saved by water**. The like figure whereunto **even baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Mark 16:16 He that **believeth and is baptized shall be saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that **so many of us as were baptized** into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Galatians 3:27 For **as many of you as have been baptized** into Christ have put on Christ.

The apostles disagree with many modern theologians regarding the necessity of baptism. Jesus gave one last instruction before He ascended into heaven. He told us to teach all things, to baptize in the name, and to faithfully obey (observe) all things commanded!

## The Apostle's Faith

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching them to observe all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

So let us answer the questions. Does baptism save us? An emphatic Yes! As the scriptures tell us. Is baptism essential? Yes again, as the scriptures tell us. Finally, which of the disciples of Jesus were baptized? All of them!

## What name should we be water baptized in?

We find that Jesus is very specific in commanding His disciples to begin making disciples and to give remission of sins in His name beginning in Jerusalem.

Luke 24:45-47 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

Peter, in obedience to Jesus commandment to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost and also to preach remission of sins in the name of Jesus Christ, does so when the church is given birth on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. This event was just 7 days after Jesus ascended to heaven. All of the Apostles were gathered at that meeting, as were many of the Jews that participated in the crucifixion of Jesus. This meeting most likely took place in the Jewish Temple at Solomon's porch.

Peter preaches that the people who killed Jesus ignorantly murdered their Messiah. This message took the crowd's heart and they asked Peter what to do next. In other words, they acknowledged their sin in repentance and now wanted to obey. They wanted to do this in order to be saved and to be put into a right standing with God. Peter, using the keys to the kingdom that Jesus gave him (Matt 16:19) earlier, gives us the official name to be baptized into.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, **and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

This verse of scripture tells us what the ONE name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost is: JESUS. If that conclusion is true, then all of the other apostles should also have water baptized using this name.

Acts 8:12-16 But when **they believed Philip** preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and **the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized**, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: **only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**)

This verse of scripture also tells us what the name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost is: JESUS. So we have the witness of Peter and Philip. But how did the apostle Paul baptize and what name did he invoke?

Acts 19:2-6 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of

## The Apostle's Faith

repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. **When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

Further proof that **Jesus** is the one name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost, can be found in Old Testament prophecy. The most famous prophecy regarding Jesus' name, also tells us that this one name when invoked, brings a five fold blessing.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and **his name shall be called** Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

The name of JESUS brings Miracles (Wonderful), Wisdom (Counselor), Divine Might (Mighty God), Eternal Creation (Everlasting Father), and Ordained Peace (Prince of Peace).

No further proof of Jesus deity and identity is needed. He is called Mighty God and Everlasting Father. This is the proof that Jesus is the One God, the Father, manifest in Flesh as the Son. Only Jesus is the son given, the Christ Child. It is clear that this scripture refers to Jesus' divinity (Father) and his humanity (son).

Timothy had it all summarized by the Apostle Paul in a very bold statement regarding who Jesus was.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, **received up into glory**.

Jesus is the One True God who became a man. It is He who is preached unto the Gentiles and it is He who was received back up into the heavens from the Mt. of Olives.

## (4) Spirit Baptism

To conclude the doctrine of baptisms, we must progress beyond water baptism and consider Spirit baptism. Spirit baptism is recorded first in the Old Testament as the one event the prophets foretold, but really were unable to understand. The bible tells us that even angels desire to understand it, but apparently cannot.

Spirit baptism can be described as much by what it is not as well as by what it is. Here is what Spirit baptism is not:

- An Inward Feeling – Many people describe Spirit baptism as a feeling, but scripture does not support this.
- Believing – Many people say they know they have the Holy Spirit because they believe they do. Scripture does not support this as well.

So now the question becomes, "how do we know when we have been Spirit baptized?" The bible has that answer. Let's start at the place where Spirit baptism was first mentioned.

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost**, and with fire:

John the Baptist apparently had the prophetic revelation of the Holy Spirit baptism that was to come. He knew that this baptism would be given by the Messiah and would be the counterpart to water baptism. John knew this from the Old Testament scriptures that tell us about the Spirit baptism to come.



## The Apostle's Faith

Joel 2:28-30 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will **pour out my spirit upon all flesh**; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also **upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit**. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

Ezekiel 11:19 And I will give them one heart, **and I will put a new spirit within you**; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

Ezekiel 36:26-27 A new heart also will I give you, **and a new spirit will I put within you**: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And **I will put my spirit within you**, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Ezekiel 37:14 **And shall put my spirit in you**, and **ye shall live**, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

The two fold purpose of God's Spirit according to the Old Testament prophets is this: The Holy Spirit would be **upon** His people to give them anointing for ministry. The Holy Spirit would also be **within** His people, giving them new life.

So the next question is, how do we invite God to put His Spirit on the inside of us?

Luke 11:10-13 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: **how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?**

If we have repented and been water baptized as the Apostle's Doctrine instructs us, we have in essence reached the step where we can ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit. This is how it occurred for the disciples whom had all been baptized in water prior to their Spirit baptism.

Acts 2:1-4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

The disciples (all Jewish believers) were Spirit baptized 7 days after Jesus ascended. He had told them to wait in Jerusalem until they were given power to be witnesses. This power is provided by the Holy Spirit. However, notice that when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit, they all spoke a new language. Notice that they did not have a feeling, but in fact spoke miraculously. This aligns with the Joel 2 prophecy that the sons and daughters of God would prophesy or speak.

Speaking in tongues is the only evidence that God gives us to "KNOW" we have received the Holy Spirit baptism. Speaking in tongues is visible faith. Visible faith always is the result of invisible belief.

Other Old Testament scriptures verify that "speaking in tongues" is the audible sign that God offers to prove that He has moved into His house; the human tabernacle made without hands.

2 Samuel 23:2 The **Spirit of the LORD spake by me**, and **his word was in my tongue**.

## The Apostle's Faith

Isaiah 28:11-12 For with **stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people**. To whom he said, **This is the rest** wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear.

The Old Testament scriptures above declare that when speaking in tongues, it is the word of God flowing out of our mouths even though the language is unknown. Further, that this new tongue is the Sabbath rest or Peace we all seek for our inward souls.

Let's conclude Holy Spirit baptism with two other New Testament examples.

Acts 10:44-47 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. **For they heard them speak with tongues**, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, **which have received the Holy Ghost** as well as we?

In the example above, the first gentile believers baptized with the Holy Spirit are found speaking in tongues just as the first Jewish believers did. Peter found himself in quite the controversy over this, as Jewish believers did not realize that Jesus was now including Gentiles into His body, the New Jerusalem Church.

This caused quite a commotion and the new church leaders got together to discuss it. Let's listen in on their meeting as Peter defends his visit to Cornelius the Italian Gentile's house.

Acts 11:12-18 And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house: And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. And as I began to speak, **the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning**. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as **God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ**; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Peter withstood the emotion packed meeting and defended his obedience to God. Admitting Gentiles into the church was an alien concept to the Jewish Christians and at first it was controversial. Peter confirms the Gentiles admittance into New Jerusalem with one single point: "God gave them the like gift as he did unto us".

The only way that Peter knew God admitted the Gentiles into the Kingdom was that he himself, along with the 6 other Jews that accompanied him, heard the Gentiles of Cornelius' house speaking in tongues. That was the sign, **not a feeling**, to the Jewish Christians of true Spirit Baptism. This is confirmed by Jesus statement about signs that "follow" those who claim to be believers.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; **they shall speak with new tongues**;

To conclude the last example of Spirit baptism, the Apostle Paul verifies that **speaking in tongues** is the sign that the gift of the Holy Spirit resides in someone's life. He shows us this when he finds some new converts to faith in Jesus who had been instructed incompletely by their teacher.

### The Apostle's Faith

These Ephesian believers had been won over to believe in Jesus as the Messiah by Apollos. Their problem was that they knew only the water baptism of John the Baptist. They had not heard about being born of the water (in Jesus' name) and the Spirit (speaking in tongues).

Paul immediately gets to the point. He knows that all believers who have been baptized in the name of JESUS normally received the Holy Spirit with the sign of new tongues or languages. Why hadn't this happened with the Apollos' Ephesian converts?

Paul immediately questions them about what they have been taught by Apollos.

Acts 19:1-6 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And **when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

Receiving the Holy Ghost is only for those believers who have repented of their sins. It can happen to you before you are water baptized, but normally happens after you are water baptized in the name of JESUS. When received by faith, a life-transforming encounter begins. This encounter ushers you into a new kingdom or city ruled by Jesus Christ. It is the one event that brings us the power to live an upright life in the comfort of spiritual peace and joy. Everyone should be eager to experience God in this way.

By the way, Apollos eventually ended up in bible school to learn the way of God more perfectly. He was instructed properly by Priscilla and Acquilla in Acts 18:24-26

## 5. *Laying on of Hands*

There is something about human touch that draws us close to others in relationship. We shake hands, put arms around one another in a warm embrace, and even high five each other. This somehow connects us in a way words cannot describe.

God created this need for human touch in each of us. He uses the touching of "Laying on of Hands" to bring us close to the divine power that can transform and anoint our lives. It is an essential part of the Doctrine of Christ.

**Laying on of hands** is normally used for these purposes:

1. Blessing of a Lesser by a Greater
2. Imparting Divine Wisdom, Guidance, and Help
3. Healing the Sick
4. Imparting the Holy Ghost Baptism
5. Commissioning of someone for an Office, Mission, or Ministry

**Laying on of hands** is not to be taken lightly nor practiced haphazardly. Several examples are provided below to help us understand the importance of being touched by Jesus through another believer's hands.

Genesis 48:13-19 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him. **And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly;** for Manasseh was the firstborn. **And he blessed** Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth. And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. And Joseph said unto his father, **Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. And his father refused,** and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

In ancient Semitic culture, the eldest was undisputedly the heir of his father's life long work and assets. However, until the hands of the greater were laid upon the lesser, the blessing was not imparted with divine approval.

Deuteronomy 34:9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; **for Moses had laid his hands upon him:** and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leadership always requires wisdom above any other attribute. When Moses laid hands upon Joshua, no doubt he invoked the name of the LORD when doing so. As we learned prior to this, the name of the LORD brings wisdom. But it also brings healing.

Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

This passage of scripture above references laying on of hands while invoking the name of JESUS. When invoked by a believer, it produces recovery and healing. But laying on of hands in the name of Jesus is also used in imparting the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

## The Apostle's Faith

Acts 8:19 Saying, Give me also this power, **that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.**

Peter and John had been sent north because the Samaritans had not received the Holy Spirit. They had been water baptized however. Simon the sorcerer (manipulator) saw that the Holy Spirit baptism was imparted when Peter and John laid hands upon the Samaritans. But scripture advises us not to lay hands on just anyone without divine suggestion.

1 Timothy 5:22 **Lay hands suddenly on no man**, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

Paul in instructing his pastoral disciple Timothy, admonishes him not to **commission** anyone for ministry without first allowing them to make full proof of their calling and character. The bible advises us to 'try the spirits' in empirical fashion, proving the will of God and the calling of men.

**Laying on of Hands** is a key step in the Apostles faith.

## **6. Resurrection from the Dead**

What makes Christianity different from any other world religion is the fact that Jesus rose from the dead after having been crucified. Scripture calls this event 'the good news'.

This miraculous event was at first, not even believed by the Apostles holed up in Jerusalem. When Jesus had died, they had clearly felt alone and that the Jesus movement was finished. But what they did not realize was that they were at the very beginning of the mission.

God chose Mary Magdalene to be the first witness to see the risen and victorious Messiah. When she arrived at the garden tomb, the stone had been rolled away inviting her to look inside the tomb. She could not resist the invitation. However, her conclusion demonstrates that none of Jesus' followers, including Mary Magdalene, expected a bodily resurrection of their Master.

Mary, after seeing and talking to the risen Christ, obeyed Jesus command to tell the Apostles what she had seen. She made a hasty march to where they were hiding, most likely at the upper room.

These men could not overcome their disbelief when she told them the good news. No, they had to see for themselves before they would believe such an incredible testimony. But none of them got to see Jesus at the tomb, even though Peter and John raced each other to get there.

They were left in a stupor of unbelief and wandered back to their hiding place. Upon arrival, Jesus appears to all of the disciples present by simply walking through the door.

This reunion after 3 days in the tomb is one of wonder, disbelief, and joy. What was the meaning of this incredible event? Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so important? How does it affect you and me?

John 20:18-23 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, **came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.** And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. **Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you:** as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And **when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:** Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Upon showing Himself to His disciples for the first time, Jesus repeats Himself twice with the Jewish greeting, "Peace", that is "Shalom". Then Jesus breathes on them and tells them to "Receive the Holy Ghost".

This event signifies that the breath of Jesus represents the Spirit or Pneuma (Gk: pneuma= Spirit) of God. In this first miraculous encounter, Jesus links the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the resurrection. Thus we find a direct benefit of Jesus' bodily resurrection: life in the Spirit for the believers.

The Church or New Jerusalem is to become a living breathing body of the risen Christ. Therefore, it will need to be a resurrected body, indwelt by the breath of Christ. The Holy Spirit is the resurrection power and life that creates the body of Christ. Without the Holy Spirit we are not the body of Christ, a miracle of resurrection.

Therefore, two main points are made by the Apostles concerning the resurrection of Jesus:

## The Apostle's Faith

1. The Resurrection is about being made alive through a Spirit filled life while we sojourn here on earth. This is known as **Spiritual resurrection** or the born again experience.
2. The Resurrection is also about acquiring an immortal body that lives forever. In other words, it's not over even when it seems like it's over! This is known as **bodily resurrection** or a physical rebirth. This is a future event that has not occurred.

One final point the Apostle John makes to us regarding **bodily resurrection**. Both the righteous and unrighteous will be resurrected. It will happen in two waves.

First, **the just** are bodily resurrected to govern and reform the earth after the cataclysmic endtime wrath of God is poured out on an unrepentant world. Second, **the unjust** are bodily resurrected to stand trial at an eternal judgment.

John 5: 26-29 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto **the resurrection of life**; and they that have done evil, unto **the resurrection of damnation**.

Understanding the resurrection of the dead is an essential part of the Doctrine of Christ.

## Power of the Resurrection

The divine breathe or Spirit takes us back to the 6th day of creation when God breathed into Adam's nostrils the 'breathe of life'. This resurrection power is God Himself. God is life and power.

John 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:

The main issue of the resurrection is the creation of a new body or new Temple. This new Holy City would be the Church. Jesus reveals this as the mission after driving out the merchants and bankers from the physical temple in old Jerusalem.

John 2:18-22 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up**. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? **But he spake of the temple of his body**. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

Jesus is revealing to the Church the purpose of His suffering at the cross and the power of His resurrection. He proves Himself to be the **Son of God by the fact of His bodily resurrection and by the fact of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on His new earthly temple, the Church**.

Romans 1:4 And declared to be the **Son of God with power**, according to the **spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead**:

Spirit filled believers demonstrate the power of the resurrection by the signs that follow them when they use the name of Jesus: Healing of the sick, miracles, speaking in tongues, and casting out devils. These are the signs of resurrection power Jesus gave to His followers who obeyed the gospel and became born of the water and the Spirit.

## The Apostle's Faith

Acts 4:33 And **with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection** of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

## Resurrection of the Believers

Jesus purpose in resurrection has many aspects to it. But His ultimate purpose was to empower His followers to walk in a Spirit filled life. This born again resurrected life in the Spirit was intended to begin a transformation of man's inner nature. This transformation of mankind is accomplished through the preaching of the gospel by those embedded with the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, during His last sermon on the Mt. of Olives just before He ascended into Heaven, commanded His disciples to return to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Ghost power. For some reason, the Holy Ghost power could not be poured out on the believers until after this ascension occurred.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but **if I depart, I will send** him unto you.

Jesus is letting the disciples know that they too need the born again resurrection power of the Holy Spirit. He had already identified for them that the Comforter He was speaking about was the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). Further that the Spirit would bring them Peace. He tells them to wait for this power in the Old City.

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but **tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power** from on high.

They understood Him that this would be the resurrection power that would gift them, change them, and allow them to escape the grave upon His 2nd coming. The Spirit's indwelling power of peace was also a sign to them that they had been adopted into God's family and kingdom and that they belonged to Jesus. Spirit baptism is part of New Jerusalem citizenship requirements.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

## Mysterious Transformation of the Resurrection

The Apostles took great care to communicate to us the transforming power of the Holy Spirit on our human nature. However, the Apostle Paul also explains the transformation process in terms of a reborn physical body upon the arrival of Jesus at His 2nd coming. This physical transformation is identical to the one Jesus underwent upon His resurrection from the garden tomb.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed**, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and **the dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Our resurrected bodies will be raised incorruptible. That is, no sin, sickness, death, or weaknesses will be part of us. We will be completely indestructible and eternal, just like the resurrected Christ.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:



The Apostle's Faith

These resurrected bodies of the believer in Christ are eternal. No further transformation needs to occur.

Luke 20:36 **Neither can they die any more:** for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being **the children of the resurrection.**

To summarize, we find that Spirit baptism is evidenced by the **speaking in tongues experience** to let us know that Jesus resides on the inside of us (we are His tabernacle). This Spirit baptism produces an inward transformation first as we anticipate a bodily transformation when Jesus arrives in the clouds at the Last Trumpet. Spirit baptism is an essential teaching in the 'Doctrine of Christ'.

## **7. Eternal Judgment**

The final element in understanding the Doctrine of Christ is Eternal Judgment.

The scripture clearly teaches two resurrections. The first resurrection is of Jesus and His body, the New Jerusalem Church. This is timed to occur for those who have been born again of water and Spirit and are awaiting the arrival of Jesus at His 2nd coming. After He does arrive, 1,000 years will transpire as His kingdom is set up around the earth. His New Jerusalem Church body will be the governors of those people who survive the endtime Armageddon war. Sin will not be tolerated during this time.

The bible tells us that Satan is bound during these 1,000 years and the earth has rest (peace). However, he is loosed for a short span of time and he unleashes a plan to reverse the gains the Church has made during the 1,000 year reign. This 1,000 year period is concluded with a final battle called the Magog war. Jesus of course, uses this war to utterly destroy the old earth and to initiate the eternal judgment.

It is at this time, upon conclusion of the Magog war, that the unjust are resurrected for judgment. They too will receive eternal bodies. However, these bodies are not incorruptible. These bodies are prepared for eternal punishment.

Revelation 20:5-8 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is **the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:** on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

At the 2nd resurrection, all unbelieving and disobedient will stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ. The books of the bible will be opened and since these people did not live their lives by faith in Christ, they must be judged by their deeds.

Their deeds will be compared to the word of God and all human motives will be examined. Finally, after each person makes an appearance at the Judgment seat of Christ, they will finally confess that Jesus is the Lord of all living. That everyone and everything created must bow and acknowledge the authority of God in humble submission to His name. These unbelievers were unwilling to do this during their mortal lifetime, but will be forced to do so during their eternal lifetime.

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and **every tongue shall confess** to God.

Isaiah 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That **unto me every knee shall bow**, every tongue shall swear.

Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And **that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

This judgment seat of Christ is final. No appeals or retrials shall occur. The sentence is final. Jesus came to save us from this judgment seat. That is, that we would not appear before His throne without a defense.

## The Apostle's Faith

Our defense will be the blood of Jesus Christ; faith in the atoning blood and name of Jesus through the resurrection power of His Spirit.

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and **there was found no place for them**. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books were opened**: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and **the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works**. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and **they were judged every man according to their works**. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Curiously, books are opened. Is it possible that there is a book for each man, woman, and child that records the deeds of their lives?

No doubt, the "Book of Life" is the bible itself. Apparently, it somehow has the names of all believers written in it.

What is more, at the Throne of Jesus Christ, there is room for the believers to be on the right side of the Judge's bench. Christians will sit with Christ during the eternal judgment as hell destined people from the 2nd resurrection plus fallen angels appear before this throne.

Revelation 3:21 To him that overcometh **will I grant to sit with me in my throne**, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

1 Corinthians 6:3 Know ye not that **we shall judge angels**? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Jesus tells the Jews that they were right to search the scriptures to find eternal life. However, He points out that the scriptures reveal that it is JESUS Himself that will come and give the **Holy Spirit life** each of them needs to be part of the first resurrection.

John 5:38-40 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search **the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life**: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life

Christians, unbelievers, Angels, and demons (Fallen Angels) must all appear before the Judgment seat of Jesus Christ. There, we will confess what we have kept back in private, assuming no one would know.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

All secrets will be revealed before Jesus, as He knows us, even down to the very number of hairs on our heads.

Romans 2:16 In the day when **God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ** according to my gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore **judge nothing before the time**, until the Lord come, who **both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness**, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Romans 14:10-12 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for **we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ**. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, **every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God**. So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God**.

## The Apostle's Faith

The Judgment seat of Christ will be the last time that unbelievers and satan are heard from. It is a final banishment into an everlasting lake of fire.

## Now that I know this, what's next?

Peter summarized it best how to come to Jesus, as he uses the very keys to the Kingdom City Jesus gave to him, to open the doors of grace and life to us.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and **be baptized** every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall **receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**.

This is how we overcome and become citizens in the New Jerusalem. We obey the plan of salvation the Apostle Peter gave us on the day he received the power of the Holy Spirit. This is how we implement the Apostle's faith into our own lives.

So what is preventing us from gaining citizenship in the New Jerusalem? All we have to do is live in the Apostle's faith; that is, the Doctrine of Christ.

Jesus gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom (Matt 16:19) and Peter used them on the day of Pentecost. Contrary to contemporary opinion, Paul was not given these keys but learned them from Ananias who baptized him.

The three keys Peter was given are:

1. Repentance,
2. Water Baptism in Jesus name, and
3. the Infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Nowhere in scripture do we read that Peter's keys were "accept Jesus as your personal savior"! This is not the plan of salvation nor can it be found in the Bible. It is not the Doctrine of Christ and is not built on the foundation of the Apostles, Prophets, or Jesus.

1) Repentance 2) Water Baptism 3) Spirit Baptism are the 3 essential entrance steps into the Kingdom of God, New Jerusalem.

## Citizenship

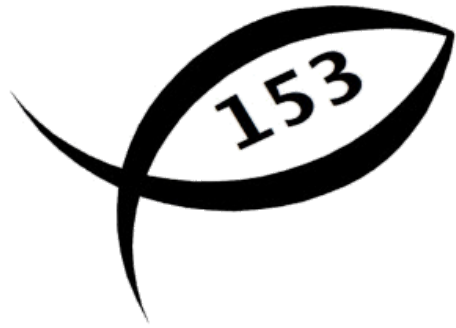
To gain entry into the Kingdom of God and get the right citizenship requires complete obedience to God's true plan of salvation as found in Acts 2:38. We must all obey and enter in through the straight gate. It takes faith and an understanding of the Apostle's Faith.

Just as this bible study began with a major truth...ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM. Ephesians 4:5

Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

## 20 Questions; a self-test.

1. What are the two types of Apostles?
2. Who was the Apostle chosen to take Judas' place?
3. What is the stumbling stone that the Jews could not get past?
4. What is the cornerstone or the Rock of Offense?
5. What is the Old City of Jerusalem called?
6. What is the New City of Jerusalem called?
7. What city did Abraham look for?
8. Why did the Apostle's continue to follow Jesus when others deserted Him?
9. What doctrine is so important that you should not even offer "godspeed" to someone who does not live in it?
10. What are the 7 elements of the Doctrine of Christ? (List them).
11. What Bible verses contain the Doctrine of Christ?
12. What 7 fruits are mentioned that related to the first step in the Doctrine of Christ?
13. What are the two baptisms found in the Doctrine of Christ?
14. What is the relationship between the resurrection and the Holy Spirit?
15. What are the 5 reasons for "Laying hands" on someone?
16. What are the 2 resurrections of the Doctrine of Christ?
17. What are the 3 essential entrance steps Peter gave to us that permit us to enter the Kingdom of New Jerusalem?
18. What is the temple of God today?
19. What scripture shows us how to be saved?
20. What name should be invoked when we are water baptized?



# Great Fish



## About the Author

Former Pastor and now Author, Dwight Davis grew up on the prairies of central North Dakota. Now responding to the latest call of the Lord, God's path has led him to write, publish, and record various types of media to help Christians grow. He is still married to his high school sweetheart (*class of 1974*) and has two sons and two granddaughters. He currently resides in Sheboygan, Wisconsin near Lake Michigan and is a former US Navy veteran.

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