

The Call to Believe

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Why is faith so important for the believer?

Why is the Great Commission important?

The Purpose

Lets us take a closer look at the Great Commission as it is stated in the four gospels and the book of Acts. Isaiah 28:9-10 tells us to put precept upon precept and line upon line in order to understand doctrine (truth). Jesus was with His disciples for a period of 40 days after He rose from the grave and before He ascended into the heavens. During that time He opened their understanding to the Holy Scriptures, Luke 24:45, then He taught things pertaining to the kingdom of God, Acts 1:3. When we study these five accounts, we understand the truths which He gave to the apostles.

The Command to Believe

The life of a believer. (Mark 16:16-18) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; (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.

Salvation by faith in the name of Jesus. (John 20:27-31) Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. (28) And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. (29) Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed. (30) And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: (31) But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

We must believe in Christ as the Scriptures tell us. (John 7:38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

What do the Scriptures tell us about Christ?

He is God with us. (Matthew 1:23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

He is God our savior. (Titus 2:13) Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

He is the Resurrection. (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.

He is the only way to heaven. (John 14:6) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

The Importance of Faith

Faith is the foundation of the entire Christian life. (Hebrews 11:6) But without faith *it*

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is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Faith in Jesus Christ is an important part of salvation. (Romans 1:16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Without believing in Christ, we are not saved from our sins. (John 8:24) I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins.

We are justified by faith. (Romans 5:1-2) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Faith begins with repentance. (Mark 1:15) And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Faith continues through water baptism. (Mark 16:16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Faith continues in receiving the Holy Ghost. (Galatians 3:2,14) This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (14) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

And faith continues throughout the Christian walk. (Romans 5:1-2) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

We receive miracles through the hearing of faith. (Galatians 3:5) He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Faith without works is dead. (James 2:26) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

If we believe in Jesus, and we are faithfully waiting for His coming, we shall be saved. (Hebrews 9:28) So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Why is faith so important for the believer?

- Faith is the foundation of the entire Christian life.
- Faith in Jesus Christ is an important part of salvation.
- We are justified by faith.
- Faith without works is dead.

Why is the Great Commission important?

- Because it is teachings about the kingdom of God, (Acts 1:3) To whom also he *shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*