

Five Fundamentals of the Faith for Salvation

When Jesus walked and taught, there was one primary question that He asked of those who were following Him. He would ask, “Do you believe I am who I say I am?” He claimed to be God in the Flesh. He claimed to be the sinless Son of God. He claimed to be the giver of life eternal. In John’s gospel, we read that Jesus reiterated this question, “Do you believe I am the giver of life eternal?”

- John 6:40 “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”
- John 6:47 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”
- John 11:26 “And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. ‘Do you believe this?’”

The apostle Paul who received his commission as the apostle to the Gentiles from Jesus Himself, (Rom. 11:13; Gal. 1:11,12,) reiterated this same question to all who would listen. When the Philippian Jailer cried out to the apostle, “What must I do to be saved?” Paul gave a simple answer, “Believe on the Lord Jesus and be saved” (Acts 16:31; cf. Acts 10:43.)

When deciding as to your eternal destiny, what or who you believe in is critical!

Many people talk of Jesus. Some people will say that Jesus was a good man. Others will call Him a prophet. Many people will speak of Jesus as a teacher of morality. However, calling Jesus a “good man” may identify the humanity of Jesus, but that statement does not affirm Jesus as the Son of God. Identifying Jesus as a “prophet” portrays Him as a spokesman for God, but it does not adequately convey the reality that Jesus is the very Word of God in the flesh. By highlighting the truth that Jesus was a teacher of morality does not convey the truth that Jesus is the sinless Son of God. The person Jesus Christ is all this and more.

- When you hear a person say that he/she believes in Jesus, you must ask, “What Jesus are you believing in?”
- When speaking to a person about his/her eternal destiny, we must present the Jesus of the Bible.
- When talking to a person concerning the remedy for his/her being dead in trespasses and sins, we must present Jesus and Him crucified, dead, buried, and raised from the dead for the sins of the whole world.
- When explaining to a person of his/her need to be restored to a right relationship with God, we must speak of Jesus as the only way to God the Father.
- When a person asks, “What must I do to be saved from eternal death and damnation,” we must hold up Jesus and say, “Believe in Him and Him alone for life eternal!”
- Here are five fundamental truths concerning the person of Jesus Christ that must be believed. (I John 5:13.)

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1. Jesus is fully God, God the Son – the second person of the Trinity but has all the fullness of the divine essence and deity as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.
 - a. John 1:1,2 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.”
 - b. II Cor. 4:4 – “whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”
 - c. Col. 1:15 – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”
 - d. Col. 2:9 – “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;”
 - e. Heb. 1:3 – “who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person...”

2. Jesus is fully man the incarnation of God the Son – fully man like unto us, but totally and utterly without sin. “The union of Jesus’ divine and human natures in his one person is called the hypostatic union.” (Frame, Salvation belongs to the Lord)
 - a. John 1:14 – “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”
 - b. Phil. 2:7,8a – “but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself...”
 - c. I Tim. 3:16 – “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God (who) was manifested in the flesh; Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles; Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”
 - d. Hebrews 2:11 – “For both, He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,”

3. Jesus was born of a virgin, not by man but by the power of God the Holy Spirit. So that, though He is fully human, he was born without sin.
 - a. Isa. 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
 - b. Matthew 1:22-25 – “but (Joseph) kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.”
 - c. Luke 1:31 – “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Jesus.”
 - d. Like 1:35 – “And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”

4. Jesus lived a sinless life. Though confronted and tempted by the world, the flesh, and the devil, he could not and did not sin.
 - a. II Cor. 5:21 – “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

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- b. Hebrews 4:15 – “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
- c. I Peter 3:18 – “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;”

5. Jesus died a vicarious, substitutionary death on the Cross of Calvary, shedding His blood for the forgiveness of sin, was dead, buried, and was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures, and He ascended to Heaven and sat upon the throne at the right hand of God, and He ever lives to make intercession for His elect people.

- a. Matt. 20:28 – “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
- b. II Cor. 15:3,4 – “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose on the third day according to the Scriptures...”
- c. Titus 2:13,14 – “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His special people, zealous for good works.”
- d. Hebrews 12:2 – “looking unto Jesus, the author, and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”