

Come let us Grow Together: Faith

Come let us Grow Together is a weekly series that deals with the many topical categories that exist within the Word of God. The purpose of this series is to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in things pertaining to God.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.” (Heb 11:1-2) It is by faith that we access the grace of God. “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” (Rm 5:2) “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Eph 2:8-9)

According to scripture we must earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to us and of the common salvation once delivered to the saints. “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Jude 1:3-4)

This still applies to us today! It is our responsibility and our duty to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to us and the common salvation that was given to us. “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;” (Phil 1:27) “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:” (1 Cor 15:1-4)

The gospel of Jesus Christ and the faith once delivered to us was the death, burial, and bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he ascended into Heaven, and the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believer when the day of Pentecost had fully come. This was the birth of the New Testament Church. It is also where we learn how we are to partake of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ! The common salvation and faith that we must earnestly contend for.

To enter into the New Testament salvation of Jesus Christ we must be born again. We learn how this is accomplished when the day of Pentecost is fully come and the people, knowing that they had crucified their Messiah and that the Holy Spirit was just poured out upon the believers, asked the Apostles what they must do in order to be saved!

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:36-42)

The common salvation that was delivered to the saints was “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.” Those who gladly received the Apostle Peter’s words with the other Apostles present were baptized. About three thousand souls! Notice carefully that “they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship”. This is where the term Apostolic comes from that most of the Churches of today claim to be following. The term Apostolic coming directly from this verse stating that “they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship”.

The truth however is most of the Churches of today do not follow after the “apostles' doctrine” and “the common salvation” that was laid out so clearly for us to follow. Therefore we must “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” (Col 3:17) This includes how you are baptized! Therefore follow after the “apostles' doctrine” which was “once delivered to the saints”! “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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” (Acts 2:38-39)