

What Must I Believe in Order to Be Saved?

(A Response to Grace Evangelical Society and a Recent 2025 Magazine Article)

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Jesus said in John 6:47:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”

The position of many within Grace Evangelical Society (GES) on what a person must believe in order to be saved is that any individual who desires salvation must only believe in the promise of eternal life. GES claims that when Jesus gave the promise of eternal life this was to be the only focus of a person’s faith or belief. For instance, if a person was trapped on an island his entire life and a piece of the Bible came floating on shore revealing only John 6:47, this person could conceivably be saved if they believe in the promise Jesus gave without knowing anything about the Gospel of grace, the cross, resurrection, salvation from hell, and who Jesus was.

This may sound logical on the surface until you think it through from a Biblical perspective (Acts 17:11) for there are various things every person must understand and know before they could ever by faith embrace the promise of eternal life.



- ✓ First, what does eternal life mean? For some it might mean the transmigration of the soul into various life forms and to others it means becoming angels in the next life and flying around in the clouds.
- ✓ Second, why do you need eternal life? What is the purpose for possessing eternal life? If there is eternal life, then there must be eternal separation from God. Why is this? It’s because of God’s wrath and judgment is upon the unbeliever (Rom. 6:23; Jn. 3:18, 36).
- ✓ Fourth, why is a person destined to eternal wrath instead of eternal life? It’s because he is a sinner who has transgressed God’s law (Rom. 3:10-19, 23).
- ✓ Fifth, the eternal life texts do not say we must simply believe in the promise of eternal life but believe in Jesus Christ who gave the promise which means believing in His finished work (His death, burial, and resurrection). You cannot get to the *promise* of eternal life without first believing in the *person* who provides eternal life for us (Jn. 3:16).

- ✓ Sixth, can an individual believe in the promise of eternal life that Jesus gave without believing in Jesus Christ and the Gospel? There is no foundation to the promise of eternal life if a person does not know who Jesus Christ is and believes in Him as Savior (Acts. 16:31). It's an empty promise without any foundation or basis. The Bible teaches we are to "hear the word of the gospel, and believe" (Acts. 15:7) in the saving merits of Christ's death and resurrection. Romans 1:16 declares: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth (*believes the Gospel message*); to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
- ✓ Seventh, how can a person believe in the promise Jesus gave concerning eternal life without knowing who Jesus was? They might merely believe He was a good man, a prophet like the cults teach, or a New Age Jesus which is "another Jesus" (2 Cor. 11:4). A person will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is God's Son when believing in Him and His saving work (John 3:16. 18; 20:31; 1 Jn. 5:10-13). Belief that Jesus is God's Son repeatedly appears in the salvation texts for only God's Son can bridge the gap between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5). The full implications of Christ as God's Son may become clearer to the Gospel believer after salvation ("He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself" - 1 Jn. 5:10) but believing that He is God's Son is necessary in receiving eternal life or else the salvation texts would exclude this truth.
- ✓ Eighth, why are we commissioned to share the Gospel with others (Mk. 16:15) if there is no need to believe in the message of the Gospel to be saved?
- ✓ Ninth, according to "believing only the promise of eternal life" theory a person can conceivably be a devil worshipper or atheist, but if that person believes in the promise of eternal life he will go to Heaven. If a person believes there are many gods (polytheism) but also believes in the promise of eternal life to make sure he has covered all his options (Acts 17:23-24), he will enter Heaven upon death. You say, that's silly, but in reality, GES is teaching this for they also reject the Biblical doctrine of repentance which is essentially a "change of mind" concerning a person's sinfulness before God, their need for the only true Savior (Jesus Christ), and their repudiation of works as the way of salvation. Biblical repentance prepares the heart for grace and results in expressing faith in Christ (Acts 20:21). You cannot get to "faith alone in Christ alone" without repentance.

A recent article by Micaela Manley (**September/November 2025, volume 41**) illustrates the unfortunate indoctrination of GES on the subject of only believing in the promise of eternal that Jesus gave without believing in Jesus Christ and the Gospel.

She writes:

“The Lord makes it clear that we are to believe in Him in order to be saved. Specifically, we are to believe in Him for what He promises, which is everlasting life. The Lord Jesus never asked unbelievers to believe in His death, burial, and resurrection. Nor did He ask them to believe a list of facts about Him or themselves. He simply asked them to believe Him, to take Him at His word.”

Yes, you did read this correctly! She like many others linked with the GES movement embrace this errant ideology – not true theology. Of course, I am sure Micaela is a godly woman who loves the Lord and wants to serve Him so my rebuttal of this article and the GES position in general has nothing to do with her character and love for the Lord. However, her answer is ripe with soteriological error.

SHOOT YOURSELF IN THE FOOT



She shoots herself in the foot for in one stroke on her computer keyboard she says we are to “believe in Him in order to be saved” and how Jesus is to be the focus of our faith by quoting John 3:16 and 11:25-26 (Christ’s death and resurrection passages) but then contradicts herself by essentially saying we don’t have to believe in Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection but only in the promise He gave concerning eternal life.

So which is it? The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (the Gospel) or only the promise of eternal life? Like many GES writers Micaela actually believes one must know nothing about the Gospel or the person of Jesus Christ to be saved but only embrace the promise of eternal life that He gave. However, Scripture teaches the opposite: “... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31). Salvation comes through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and not merely believing in a promise He gave.

WHICH IS IT?

Acts 4:12

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Salvation and eternal life is rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It’s not a rogue promise separate from Christ’s person and work (His death and resurrection). In other words, without believing that Jesus is the Son of God who died and rose again (Jn. 3:15-16) you cannot be saved. To conclude that you must only believe in the promise of eternal life that Jesus gave means you don’t have to know or believe in the Gospel to be saved. Of course, the Scriptures teach otherwise (Rom. 1:16; Eph. 1:13).



When you get down to it, this is really a blatant heresy. GES and many within this movement are saying, “Yes, the Gospel saves us, but we don’t have to know anything about the Gospel or that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and we certainly don’t have to believe in the Gospel message for our salvation but only in Jesus’ promise of eternal life. In fact, we don’t even need to believe in grace but only the promise of eternal life. However, the good news is that grace will save us without us ever knowing about it!”

Essentially, some GES advocates conclude we don’t have to know about the good news (the Gospel) even though it’s the Gospel that saves us (“by which ye are saved” - 1 Cor. 15:1-2). Of course, the Gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24) is directly linked to Christ’s death and without knowing about the Gospel of grace a person cannot be saved “for by grace are ye saved through faith” (Eph. 2:8-9) which means placing faith in the message of God’s saving grace (the death of Christ on one’s behalf) “for the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” (Tit. 2:11). Yes, there are some things you need to know and embrace by faith despite the errant conclusion of Manley.

Again, Manley shockingly writes:

“The Lord Jesus never asked unbelievers to believe in His death, burial, and resurrection. Nor did He ask them to believe a list of facts about Him or themselves.”

In her article she, like other GES writers, conclude that we don't have any facts that we must believe about ourselves or Jesus Christ. Really?

Let's begin with the Gospel facts about Jesus Christ. The Lord spoke of His own coming death and resurrection in Luke 24:26 ("to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day"). He mentioned how He came into the world to "seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk. 19:10) which can only come through the Messianic predictions and claims of His own death and resurrection "to save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

Jesus also said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth (crucified on the cross), will draw all men unto me" (Jn 12:32). He declared in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly." These are Gospel facts. Jesus wanted people to express faith in His coming sacrifice since He was the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" (1 Cor. 5:7).

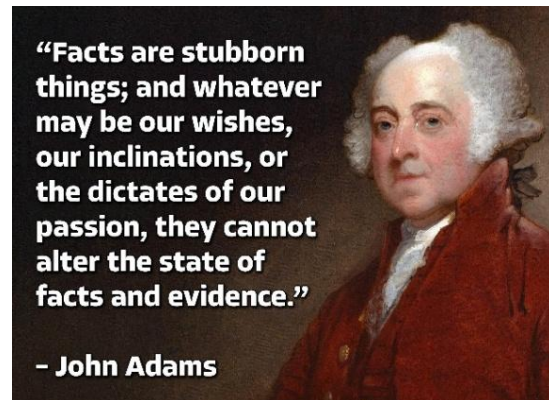
Jesus would then commission His disciples to preach "repentance and remission of sins" "among all the nations" (Lk. 24:47). In fact, they were to preach the Gospel to all the nations (Mk. 16:15) so people could hear and believe in the Gospel message. Again, these are facts! Jesus also taught in John 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." In other words, to outwardly reject Christ as God is to reject His person and therefore His saving work. According to John, a person who denies that Christ is God is an antichrist (1 John 2:18-23) – not a believer.

How about poor lost sinners? Do they need to know any facts? Christ during His earthly ministry told people they were wicked sinners (Lk. 5:32; 15:7, 10; Jn. 8:11; Matt. 16:4) and serpents going straight to hell and damnation (Matt. 23:33; Lk. 13:3, 5). He chided those who refused to believe on Him when He stated: "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life" (Jn. 5:40). How can a person be saved and bypass the fact that he is a sinner (Rom. 3:23) and in need of the Savior ("the Saviour of the world" – Jn. 4:42), that his good works cannot save him (Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5), that Jesus Christ (God's Son) is the only way to Heaven (Jn. 14:6), and that a person must believe in God's Son to receive everlasting life (Jn. 3:15-16; 6:69; 8:37)?



Jesus saves! Jesus means “Jehovah is salvation” and without placing faith in Jesus the Son of God (His person and work) you cannot be saved. You don’t have to be a theological rocket scientist to understand this!

These are facts and facts are stubborn things! Why are GES writers so down on these Bible facts which leads a person to simple repentance (2 Pet. 3:9; Acts 17:30-31) and brings them to the place where they can express faith alone in Christ alone as their Savior without works, legalism, and other Lordship Salvation add-ons or requirements (giving up sins, making Jesus Lord over one’s life, becoming a disciple, etc.)?



The answer why GES sidesteps clearly revealed Biblical facts concerning the necessity of belief in the Gospel and God’s Son is because they are attempting to counter Lordship Salvation teaching with its unbiblical emphasis on the meaning of faith and subjective assurance which is based upon legalistically frontloading the Gospel with works (discipleship/mastery salvation, making Jesus lord over one’s life, promises to give up sins, to become something, or do something for Christ, etc.). However, in countering the obvious errors of Reformed Lordship Salvation and emphasizing the assurance of salvation through simple faith, GES creates their own set of blatant errors by taking the extreme position that there is no need to even believe in Jesus Christ as God’s Son and the Gospel message in order to be saved. All one must do is take Jesus at His word concerning the promise of eternal life.

Essentially, this means you can bypass the person of Christ (God’s Son), His cross, and the resurrection and just believe in His promise. All you must do is say “Yes” to the promise of eternal life, believing in the promise Jesus gave, without possessing any knowledge that you are a sinner, without knowing Christ is God’s Son and the only Savior, and that you need salvation from hell. Of course, any promise without knowledge and faith in Christ’s person and work (His death and resurrection) is an empty promise.

Let’s Biblically interact with the two main points in the “Grace in Focus” or “Grace Out of Focus” magazine article (pp. 22-23).

Manley again writes:

“The Lord makes it clear that we are to believe in Him in order to be saved. Specifically, we are to believe in Him for what He promises, which is everlasting life. The Lord Jesus never asked unbelievers to believe in His death, burial, and resurrection. Nor did He ask them to believe a list of facts about Him or themselves. He simply asked them to believe Him, to take Him at His word.”

If it sounds like error, it is error. Is this statement accurate according to Biblical revelation or is it another repeated talking point for GES to prove their own theory? What saith the Scripture?

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him (*the person and work of Christ*) should not perish, but have everlasting life” (the promise).

John 3:36

“He that believeth on the Son (*the person and work of Christ*) hath everlasting life (*the promise*): and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

John 6:40

“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him (*the person and work of Christ*), may have everlasting life (*the promise*): and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:47

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me (*the person and work of Christ*) hath everlasting life” (*the promise*).

John 5:24

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me (*the Father sending the Son into the world to be the Savior*), hath everlasting life (*the promise*), and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

John 20:30-31

“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the

Christ, the Son of God (*the person and work of Christ*); and that believing ye might have life through his name" (*the name representing who Christ is and what He has done*).

You will notice that belief precedes the promise of eternal life. You cannot get to the promise or claim this promise unless you believe on Jesus Christ. **But what are we to believe about Jesus Christ?** The Scriptures repeatedly and unmistakably teach (not GES) that we must believe Jesus Christ as God's Son entered the world to be the Savior through His Gospel work (His death, burial, and resurrection) as predicted by the Old Testament prophets (Ps. 16:9-11; 22; Isa. 53; 1 Pet. 1:10-11) and therefore died, was buried, and rose again the third day "**according to the Scriptures**" – the Old Testament Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:2-3). This is the Gospel.

Eight times in the gospel of John Jesus speaks about His role as Savior from sin through His death and resurrection (Jn. 1:29; 2:19; 3:14-15; 11:25-26; 12:32-33; 18:32; 19:30; 20:27-29). This means Christ was offering Himself as the Savior of mankind (the Lamb of God) in view of the universal Messianic revelation given regarding His death and resurrection from the dead (Ps. 16; 22; Isa, 53; Zech. 12:10; Matt. 1:21). Paul even preached the resurrection to the heathen for the Gospel was the only hope for lost humanity (Acts 17:31-32). Believing on Christ is embracing by faith the Gospel message, placing one's total confidence or trust in the person (God's Son) and work of Jesus Christ (His death, burial, and resurrection) to be one's Savior.

Micaela correctly says, "**The Lord makes it clear that we are to believe in Him in order to be saved.**" But she never speaks of what it means to believe in Jesus Christ as one's Savior and then goes off on the GES pet talking point of only believing in Christ's promise of eternal life but not on Christ Himself and His saving work. So, when Micaela says, "**The Lord Jesus never asked unbelievers to believe in His death, burial, and resurrection**" she is misinformed because every time Jesus said, "Believe in me" He was referencing Himself as being the crucified Son of God (Jn. 3:15-16, 36; 12:32) and the One who would die and rise again from the dead.

Mark 8:31

"And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."

Matthew 12:40

“For as Jonas (*Jonah*) was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Jesus predicted His own resurrection again and again.

John 2:19

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Faith is empty and invalidated if it is not based in the person and Gospel work of Jesus Christ. Paul repeatedly explains that “your faith is vain” (1 Cor. 15:14, 17) if it is not placed in the resurrection of Christ which is an integral part of the Gospel (Rom. 10:9-10) and “by which also ye are saved” (1 Cor. 15:2). In other words, without understanding and believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ no person can express a rational and genuine faith in Jesus Christ and therefore be saved.

We are not talking about a *generic* belief in Christ but a *specific* belief in His death, burial, and resurrection. Again, believing in Christ precedes believing in His promise in the salvation texts mentioned above (Jn. 3:15-16; 3:36; 6:47, etc.). Furthermore, it's not **“believe in Him for what He promises”** as Micaela states (p. 23) but believing in Him, Christ as the Son of God, who died and rose again to save us from God's wrath and condemnation (John 3:18, 36).

John's gospel and the later epistles echo the same truth what Jesus taught during His earthly ministry. The original disciples recorded the words Christ spoke by the Spirit's guiding ministry (Jn. 14:26; 16:13). This is why the gospel writers emphasized Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It's because from the days of Christ on earth belief in His person (the Son of God) and work (His death, burial, and resurrection) was the content of a person's faith.

Paul highlights the Gospel message in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4:

“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 Thessalonians 4:14

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”

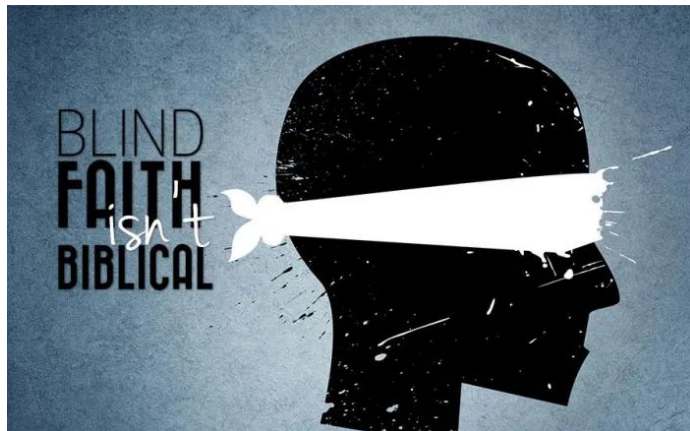
2 Timothy 2:8

“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel.”

Here is the point. It’s the Gospel message that a person must believe in order to be saved and not merely the promise of eternal life that Jesus gave. The promise has no meaning or basis without the Gospel. Again, we must allow the Scriptures to speak for themselves on this matter.

Ephesians 1:13:

“**In whom ye also trusted** (placing faith in Christ – His person and Gospel work), **after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation** (after hearing the Gospel message): **in whom also after that ye believed** (believing in Christ’s Gospel work), **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.**”



Belief in the Lord Jesus Christ is belief in His person and saving work. It’s not blind faith in a promise that He gave about eternal life without knowing who Jesus was (the Son of God) and what He did to give us eternal life (the good news of the Gospel).

Romans 1:16 declares:

“**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ** (His death, burial, and resurrection): **for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth** (everyone who believes in the Gospel message – what Christ did to save and give them eternal life); **to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**”

Again, the Bible teaches we are to “hear the word of the gospel, and believe” (Acts 15:7) in the saving merits of Christ’s death and resurrection. We are commissioned

to “preach the gospel” (Mk. 16:15) throughout the world so that others would place faith in Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection for their salvation. Paul himself was “persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and *out of* the prophets, from morning till evening” (Ac. 28:23). “And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not” (Ac. 28:24).

The message of Christ is the message of the Gospel in which people need to place their faith so they might be saved. Such phrases as “many believed on him” (Jn. 8:30; 12:42); “many believed in the Lord” (Acts 9:42); “many more believed because of his own word” (Jn. 4:41); “many of them which heard the word believed” (Ac. 4:4); “many as were ordained to eternal life believed” and “many that believed” (Ac. 19:18). In none of these instances were these people only believing in a promise about eternal life but believing in the Lord Jesus Christ Himself – His claim to be the Son of God and Messianic Christ who would die and rise from the dead.

Faith in Christ is faith in the Gospel and the result of this faith in Christ is receiving the free gift of everlasting life (Jn. 3:15-16; 6:47). If instruction is given to “preach the gospel” (Acts. 16:10; Rom. 1:15; 15:20; 1 Cor. 1:17; 9:14, 16; 2 Cor. 2:12; 10:16; Gal. 2:2; Rev. 14:6) then a person must hear it (Rom. 10:17), understand it (1 Tim. 2:4), and receive it by faith (Jn. 1:12) in order to be saved and possess the free gift of eternal life (Rom. 6:23).

Manley and many who are part of GES fail to distinguish between the primary *object* of a person’s faith (the Gospel message of Christ) and the *promise* associated with expressing faith in Christ (eternal life). Everlasting life is the blessing and result of faith in Christ; it’s not the sole object and condition of faith. **To state it simply, you cannot believe in the promise of eternal life without first believing in the Giver of life.** Belief in Christ precedes belief in His promise (Jn. 3:15-16, 18, 5:24; 20:30-31). Yes, we can claim the promise of eternal or everlasting life but only when we believe on the Christ who can grant us eternal life (Jn. 3:36). In believing on Christ, we must take Christ at His word, that He’s the Son of God who died and rose again to give us everlasting life. We must believe in Christ Himself to receive the promise of eternal life.

1 John 5:13 concludes with an objective promise to God’s children:

“These things have I written (the previous verses that dealt with the witnesses to the Son of God - the Trinity and the Spirit, the water and the blood) **unto you** (those who are already God’s children) **that believe on the name of the Son of God** (the

name of God's Son represents who He is and what He has done for us and therefore when believing on the name of the Son of God we are believing in His person, death, and resurrection to save us – Jn. 20:31); **that ye** (God's children) **may know that ye have eternal life** (the assurance that God's children do possess eternal life because they have believed upon the Son's death and resurrection to receive the free gift of eternal life), **and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God** (reconfirming that continued faith in God's Son, and nothing else, brings the blessed assurance that we possess eternal life - "looking unto Jesus" - Heb. 12:2).

Notice again that belief in the Son of God precedes knowing that you have eternal life. Upon believing you can know that you have eternal life. However, a person cannot know he has eternal life without believing in Jesus Christ, God's Son, since He is the only One who grants us eternal life through His death and resurrection. Therefore, it must be belief in God's Son and not merely in His promise of eternal life. **It's important to underscore that the**



promise of eternal life does not stand alone; the promise does not bypass belief in Christ's person and work as Manley and other GES advocates suggest. The promise of eternal life is based upon personal belief in Jesus Christ (His person and work) which means you cannot take a spiritual bypass on Christ and know that you have eternal life.

The Bible says, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness" (receiving imputed righteousness - Rom. 10:10) which is previously defined as "believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Rom. 10:9). When you falsely claim that belief in the Gospel is unnecessary for one's salvation you are saying that Jesus, Paul, John, and many other writers of Scripture were wrong regarding the content of one's faith.

Micaela concludes that **"when identifying the content of saving faith, we must always go back to the Scriptures."** I agree. So, let's get back to the Scriptures and review the content of saving faith. What must I believe in order to be saved?

- ✚ **That Jesus is the Son of God** (Jn. 3:15-16, 18, 36; 11:27; 20:30-31; 1 Jn. 5:5; 10-11, 13; Acts 8:37);
- ✚ **That Jesus died, was buried, and rose again** (Mk. 8:31; 16:15; Lk. 9:22; Jn. 1:29; 2:19; 3:14-15; 11:25-26; 12:32-33; 18:32; 19:30; 20:27-29; Rom. 1:16. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Eph. 1:13; 1 Cor. 15:1-4);
- ✚ **That Jesus by His death and resurrection freely gives us salvation and eternal life** (Jn. 3:15-16; 6:47; 1 John 5:10-13; Rev. 22:17).

There you have it! It is not complicated. God's beloved Son died, was buried, and rose again the third day to grant you salvation and eternal life. The Gospel is a simple message and faith in Christ is simple. We place our complete trust in Christ's **death** (*paying* the penalty for our sins), **burial** (*proving* His death was real and final), and **resurrection** (*providing* the evidence that the Father accepted His sacrifice and giving us the promise of eternal life – Rom. 4:25; Jn. 11:26).

During His earthly ministry Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6). This means a person must "come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4) that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven so he might be saved through Christ's person and work. Without hearing the Gospel ("So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" - Rom. 10:17), without knowing and believing Christ is the Son of God and the Savior who died and rose again (Jn. 3:15-16) a person cannot possess eternal life. You cannot bypass belief in the cross and resurrection without discrediting and voiding the promise of eternal life. A dead Christ cannot give eternal life!

It's as simple as this: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:14). Salvation is rooted in Christ, and no person can be saved without believing Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died and rose again on their behalf (Acts. 4:12; 16:31). **This means you cannot place faith in a promise of eternal life until you first place faith in Christ who gave the promise!** "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26).

Believe the Gospel

William R. Newell writes:

"The gospel is all about Christ. Apart from Him, there is no news from heaven but that of coming woe!"

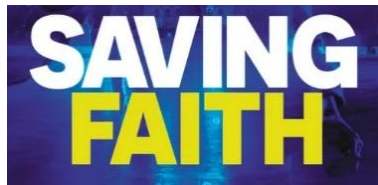
This is why 2 Timothy 1:9-11 declares:

"Who hath saved us (from the penalty of sin), **and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works** (free grace!), **but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began** (the Gospel is eternal for it's "the everlasting gospel" – Rev. 14:6), **But is now** (through the incarnation of Christ and with the introduction of the Gospel age, the time when Jesus came to die and rise from the dead) **made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus** (Jehovah will save) **Christ** (the anointed Messiah, which during the days of His flesh publicly proclaimed the good news of salvation and taught men that He must die, be buried, and rise from the dead in order to save ungodly sinners), **who hath abolished death** (annulled, taken away the power of both the spiritual and physical aspects of death – Heb. 2:14-15; Jn. 11:25; 14:19), **and hath brought life** (the promise of eternal life – Jn. 3:15-16; 6:47; 11:26) **and immortality** (the promise of resurrection life – Jn. 11:25; 14:19) **to light through the gospel** (by the visible revelation of the Gospel of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection which gives us the assurance of eternal life, Heaven, and the hope of our own bodily resurrection – Rev. 1:18): **Whereunto I am appointed a preacher** (sharing the Gospel message with others so they might be saved), **and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."**

Manley is correct when she states: **"He simply asked them to believe Him, to take Him at His word."** However, belief is taking Christ at His word who said that He is the Son of God who died and rose again from the dead to grant everyone the free gift of eternal life (Jn. 3:15-16; 2:19; Matt. 16:23; Lk. 24:46; Acts 26:23). Every time Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God spoke of His coming death, He implied His resurrection, and every time He mentioned His resurrection He also implied His death (Isa. 53). You cannot have one without the other as indicated elsewhere in Scripture (Rom. 10:9-10).

Paul in an official way introduced the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 for the Dispensation of the Grace of God (Eph. 3:2) basing it upon the Scriptures ("according to the scriptures") which refer to the Old Testament Messianic Scriptures. Therefore, Christ pressed His Messianic claims upon those people He witnessed to during His earthly ministry for **"beginning at Moses and all the**

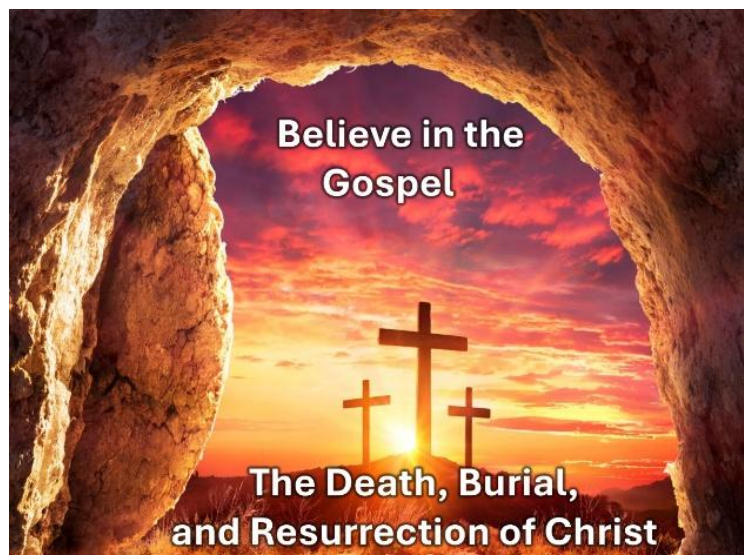
prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself” (Lk. 24:27). “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (Jn. 5:39). This means taking Christ at His word is the volitional (free will) response to His person and saving work (the Gospel). It’s not a stand-alone response to only His offer of eternal life. “And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God” (Jn. 6:69).



What is the kind of faith that results in salvation? The Bible is very clear on the content of one’s faith or what an individual must believe in order to be saved. Every person must be a “Gospel believer” so he can be saved - not merely “an eternal life believer” in a Jesus he knows nothing about, a Gospel he knows nothing about, a cross he knows nothing about, a resurrection he knows nothing about, and the grace of God which he knows nothing about. Only a Gospel believer can be saved (“By which ye are saved” - 1 Cor. 15:2).

And why can Jesus give a Gospel believer the promise of eternal life? The answer is because Jesus is the Son of God who died on the cross, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4). When you personally express faith in the Gospel (good news) it becomes the “gospel of your salvation” (Eph. 1:13) “unless you have believed in vain” (1 Cor. 15:2). When you express belief in the Gospel, you immediately receive the free gift of eternal life for you “believe on him to life everlasting” (1 Tim. 1:16). It’s belief in Christ which results in belief in the promise of eternal life. Don’t put the cart before the horse! It’s Christ first, then eternal life!

In conclusion, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ is much more than believing in a promise of eternal life, it’s believing in the Gospel or the good news of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection which provides you with eternal life. **Take away the Gospel and there is no good news! Take away the Gospel and there is no eternal life!** No person can be saved and possess eternal life with a crossless



gospel and a sealed tomb. A person's faith must therefore be expressed in the cross of Christ and the empty tomb!

'Twas here the debt was paid -
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Our sins on Jesus laid -
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
So round the cross we sing
Of Christ, our offering,
Of Christ, our living King -
Hallelujah for the cross!"