

Seven Key Doctrines of the Christian Church **(Doctrine of One Faith)**

A mini-series the Universality of the Christian Church

Doctrine of One Body
Doctrine of One Spirit (Part #1) – (Part #2) – (Part #3) – (Part #4) – (Part #5)
Doctrine of One Hope of Calling (Part #1) – (Part #2)
Doctrine of One Lord
Doctrine of One Faith
Doctrine of One Baptism (Part #1) – (Part #2) – (Part #3)
Doctrine of One God and Father

We are currently studying Paul's list of seven doctrines that separate the Christian church from the religions of the world. In this study we will discuss the third of seven doctrines listed in Eph.4:4-6,

(Eph.4:4-6) "There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call - one Lord, **one faith**, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all".

This lesson is on our fifth doctrine listed in Eph.4:4-6, **One Faith**. There is only One Lord and His name is Jesus Christ. This is one of the most profound doctrines of the New Covenant.

This lesson will study <u>five aspects</u> of the <u>fifth doctrine</u> listed in our lesson text – ONE FAITH.

1. Faith is not an exclusive term to Christianity.

In fact, it is a common term in the non-religious world as well as in religions of the world.

- In the non-religious world, it refers to allegiance to duty and fidelity to one's promise.
- In the religious world, it refers to belief or trust in loyalty to gods or to the God and to something one believes with strong convictions.

2. We will begin by explaining the fundamental principle behind faith and how Christianity's faith differs.

- **Common principle:** Faith must have a reliable working object - faith in what and why? It is the reliability of the working object that builds confidence and trust of one's faith.
 - **Common example,** if your chair at home is reliable and at school, and at church, it builds confidence and trust in chairs. If you sat in chairs that were problematic, you would lose confidence and trust or faith in chairs.
- **Common conclusion:** The value of your faith lies in the object, not in the subject.

There are two spheres of conflicting sources of faith:

- Cosmos Diabolicus (worldly thinking/ sight)
- Divine Viewpoint (faith)
 - (2 Cor.5:7). Thomas chose Cosmos Diabolicus (worldly thinking/ sight) reflected in (John 20:25).
 - Jesus called it - unbelieving rather than believing (Jn.20:27).

Another biblical example was David facing Goliath (1 Sam.17:16, 26, 36-37, 44-47).

3. Christianity's faith is established on the source of the character of the Godhead and the word of God.

- The Godhead is found in (Eph.4:4-6)
 - One Spirit; One Lord; One God the Father of One Faith.
- The Godhead is also found in (1 Cor.12:4-6)
 - Spirit gifts; Lord gifted ministries; and God gifted performances all of One faith.
- The Godhead is also source of effective prayer life (James 5:16-18)
 - Example - Elijah, Man of Prayer (1 Kings 17-19).
 - Addressed to Father (Matt.6:9)
 - In name of Son (John 14:13-14)
 - In power of Spirit (Eph.6:18; Ps.66:18; 1 John 1:9)
 - According to word of God (Word and Will of God) (1 John 5:14-15)

(Jude 20) "But you, beloved, **building yourselves up on your most holy faith**, praying in the Holy Spirit."

4. The building up of faith in the Christian way of life is the result of cycling of the Categorical Bible Doctrine. (2 Tim.3:16-17) (inhale and exhale).

Faith cycle starts with **hearing (Rom.10:17)**, then moves to understand and **believing (Heb.4:2)**. Then to **applying (2 Cor.5:7)** and finishes with **completing (James 2:22)**.

One biblical example of faith cycle is Noah and the Ark (Gen.6-8).

- God told Noah why the Ark was needed (Gen.6:1-13)
- God told him how to build Ark (Gen.6:14-16).
- God told Noah who would be saved from judgment (Gen.6:17-27)
- God told him what to preach to his generation (Coming Judgment) (Heb.11:7; 1 Pet.3:20; 2 Pet.2:5; Gen.6:3) [120 years/ died at age of 950] (Gen.9:28-29) [350 yrs. after the flood].

5. Christians are instructed to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor.5:7).

The doctrinal point of (2 Cor.5:6) and (2 Cor.5:8) is found in (2 Cor.5:7).

God's faithfulness to our walk of faith on earth is our assurance that the alternative life to earth is heaven where we will walk by sight (2Tim.2:13).

In the biblical example of **Doubting Thomas** recorded in (John 20:24-29), Thomas needed something to believe regarding the tragedy of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Thomas had been told by other disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead and had met with them (John 20:19-23) "**We have seen the Lord!**"

Thomas: "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my hand into His side, **I will not believe.**" (John 20:25) Not believe what? The Resurrection! (Matt.16:21-23; 27:63-66) (read)

Jesus warned him – "Stop disbelieving and start believing!" (John 20:27)

Then Jesus pronounced a blessing upon Divine Viewpoint (DV) Faith:

(John 20:29) "**Blessed** (makarios) [divine grace blessings] (John 13:17) are they who did not see, and yet believed." (Heb.11:1).