

Milk & Meat of the WORD



MILK & MEAT of the Word ✖

#BuildtheHome



The Commands of Christ

Our Confidence to Obey: Knowing God

The Need to Obey: We Are Blind

The Power to Obey: We Can Obey

The Blessings of Obedience

The Results of Obedience

MEAT of the Word



MILK of the Word

MILK OF THE WORD



INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 5:11-14

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are **slow to learn**. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the **elementary truths of God's** word all over again. You need **milk**, not **solid food**! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But **solid food** is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Intro

Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore let us leave the **elementary teachings about Christ** and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as **worldly**-- mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you **milk**, not **solid food**, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ You are still **worldly**. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

1 Peter 2:1-2 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual **milk**, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation...

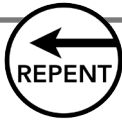
In the **Hebrews 5:11-14 / 6:1-2** passages above, we have two types of teaching that are essential for developing a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. **Milk of the Word:** the elementary truths of God's Word (Hebrews 5:12) or elementary teachings about Christ (Hebrew 6:1) which are foundational for the Christian. The foundational teachings are: **repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.**
2. **Meat of the Word:** teaching about righteousness or solid food (Hebrew 5:13, 14) brings us to maturity. Teaching about righteousness is two-fold: **we are made righteous immediately upon the forgiveness of sin by belief in the gospel** (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 5:1) and **we experience righteousness as we obey the Lord Jesus Christ** (Romans 6:16).

Three types of believers need the Milk of the Word:

1. **Lazy to learn** Christians. (Hebrews 5:11 - translates, "slow to learn", or "dull of hearing")
2. Believers who **live according to the flesh** or who are **worldly**. (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)
3. **New** or **infant** believers. (1 Peter 2:2)

All believers need to learn and have ready to use in an instant the foundational **Milk of the Word**. Just as we first build the foundation of a house and then build the house upon it, so we lay the foundation, **Milk of the Word**, and build upon it with teachings about righteousness, the commands of Christ (solid food). Likewise, the **Milk of the Word** keeps the mature believer on the path of righteousness, as well, it steers them back on the path when they depart from it through sin.



Milk of the Word

Definition: Repent

[BDAG] μετανοέω (metanoēō)

1. change one's mind;
2. feel remorse, repent, be converted (in a variety of relationships and in connection with, varied responsibilities, moral, political, social or religious.

1. True repentance is a change of mind that produces godly actions.

Acts 26:20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, **I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.**

2. God commands all people everywhere to repent.

Acts 17:30-31 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.

3. God desires everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

4. God initiates repentance.

Luke 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous, but **sinners to repentance.**

Acts 11:18 When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, **God has granted even the Gentiles repentance.**"

5. People are given opportunity to repent.

Romans 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that **God's kindness leads you toward repentance?**

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (greatest act of kindness)

2 Corinthians 7:8-10 Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it-- I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while-- ⁹ yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because **your sorrow led you to repentance**. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰ **Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation** and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

2 Timothy 2:25 Those who oppose him he **must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance** leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

6. We can hear God considers something sin and not repent.

John 3:19-20 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10 Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it-- I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while-- ⁹ yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but **worldly sorrow brings death**.

7. Repentance leads to release from the penalty of sin. (Unbeliever)

Illustration: Clean slate, concerning the penalty of sin.

Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

8. Repentance leads to restored fellowship with God. (Believer)

Illustration: Slate kept clean, concerning fellowship with God.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Revelation 2:5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! **Repent and do the things you did at first.** If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place.



Milk of the Word

Definition: Faith

[BDAG] πίστις (pistis)

1. that which evokes trust and faith
2. state of believing on the basis of the reliability of the one trusted, trust, confidence, faith in the active sense = 'believing', in ref. to deity
3. that which is believed, body of faith/belief/teaching

1. Faith to be saved from the penalty of sin

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is **by grace you have been saved, through faith** and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since **we have been justified through faith**, we {1 Or let us} have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we {2 Or let us} rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

2. Faith for healing.

Matthew 9:2 Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. **When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."**

Matthew 9:22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "**your faith has healed you.**" **And the woman was healed from that moment.**

Matthew 9:29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "**According to your faith will it be done to you.**"

3. Faith is based not on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

1 Corinthians 2:5 so that your **faith** might not **rest** on men's wisdom, but on **God's power.**

John 2:18-22 The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. **Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.**

4. Faith is attempting to do God's will fully expecting Him to fulfill our attempt with His power.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that **by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.** (Sanctification by faith)

5. Faith accesses God's resources.

Mark 11:22-23 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. ²³ "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart **but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him...**"

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave himself for me.

6. Fear is indicative of no or little faith.

Luke 8:24-25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ²⁵ "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

7. Faith is how we overcome fear.

John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me."

Final Thoughts

This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

We survive and thrive in persecution by faith in God.

Additional teaching on faith:

- Basis of faith - 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17
- How we grow in faith - Romans 10:17; 2 Thessalonians 1:3
- Faith expresses itself through love - Galatians 5:6
- Faith without works is not saving faith - James 2:14, 17, 26
- Faith is how we gain victory over the world - 1 John 5:4

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ESV

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ESV

Revelation 13:10 If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints. ESV



Milk of the Word

The Three Baptisms

John's Baptism

Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Believer's Baptism

John's **Baptism** (Preparatory)

Purpose: To prepare a person for salvation.

Luke 7:29-30 All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.

Meaning: John's baptism is twofold:

1. We publicly repent of our sin. (Mark 1:4)
2. We confess our sins and acknowledge our need of forgiveness (Mark 1:5).

Mode: To dip the person under water (baptism means to dip under as seen in John baptizing Jesus recorded in Matthew 3:16).

The testimony of the Holy Spirit and the saints has replaced the practice of John's baptism (see John 15:26-27 and John 16:8-11).

Application:

- We need to remember how important the "John the Baptist" ministry was in our life. It made us aware of sin. (Rom 7:7, 13)
- We need to do our part in the "John the Baptist" ministry to prepare others to receive Jesus as their savior, that is, help people see their sin. (Rom 7:7, 13)

Baptism with the Holy Spirit (Salvatory)

Purpose: The baptism with the Holy Spirit is to resource us with everything we need to be like Christ and to do His works.

The resources we gain when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit are as follows:

1. Guaranteed salvation. (Ephesians 1:13-14)
2. The power to be and do God's will. (Ephesians 1:19-20; Acts 1:8)
3. Guidance into all truth. (John 16:13)
4. God's promptings to specific service. (Acts 8:29)
5. We become an important part of the Body of Christ and have access to all the gifts of other parts of the Body. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Application:

- We are to remember the resources we have received by being baptized with the Holy Spirit are sufficient for being and doing all that Jesus commands.
- We can live secure knowing we have eternal life.
- We can trust God to guide us into all truth.
- We can act in faith expecting God to fulfill our act of faith with His power. (2 Thessalonians 1:11)
- We can heed the promptings of the Holy Spirit to specific acts of service.
- We are to remember we are a significant part of the Body of Christ and need each part to accomplish the works Christ has assigned us. (1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 2:10)

Believer's Baptism (Revelatory)

Purpose: Public revelation of the inner salvation by faith in Christ.

1 Peter 3:21 "Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (not as the removal of dirt from the body, but the **pledge** [pledge, answer, appeal: **eperotoma**, ἐπερώτημα] of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus, Christ..." CSB

Meaning: The believer's baptism is our public commitment to the terms of our service for Jesus Christ. In 1 Peter 3:21 The Greek word *eperotoma* means the following: "In every business contract there was a definite question and answer which made the contract binding. The question was, 'Do you accept the terms of this contract and bind yourself to observe them?' The technical word for that question and answer clause is *eperotoma* in Greek and *stipulation* in Latin. In baptism God said to the man coming out of heathenism: 'Do you accept the terms of My service? Do you accept the privileges and promises, and do you undertake its responsibilities and demands?' And in the act of being baptized the man answered, 'Yes.'" - William Barclay in the *Letters of James and Peter*.

Terms of service we agree to when we are baptized:

1. **Privileges** we have as believers:

- Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- We are chosen by Jesus to bear much fruit that remains and to have answered prayer. (John 15:16)
- We have God's mercy and help in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

2. **Promises** we have as believers:

- We have eternal life. (John 3:16)
- We have power to do all He commands us to do. (Ephesians 1:19-20; 3:20; Acts 1:8)
- We have His provision. (Matthew 6:33)

3. **Responsibilities** we have as believers:

- We are to witness to others concerning salvation in Christ. (Acts 1:8)
- We are to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded. (Matthew 28:19-20)

4. **Demands** we have as believers:

- We are to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. (Matthew 16:24)
- We are to be willing to lose our life for Jesus sake. (Matthew 16:25)
- We are to put Jesus first in all our relationships. (Luke 14:26)
- We are to be willing to give up all we have to be Jesus' disciple. (Luke 14:33)

Remembering the Baptisms will move us to:

- Testify along with the Holy Spirit to convict people of sin, righteousness and judgment and of their need for Christ's salvation.
- Remember the terms of our service for Christ and enjoy the privileges, claim the promises, fulfill the responsibilities, and meet the demands.
- Remember the resources we have been given by Christ and use them to complete the assignments God has given each of us.

Mode of Baptism: The mode of believer's baptism is to be dipped under water as the Ethiopian eunuch was in Acts 8:38-39, "And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ **And when they came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing."

Application:

- We need to remember the terms of service and fulfill them.
- We need to participate in the privileges, promises, responsibilities and demands we agreed to.



LAYING ON OF HANDS



Milk of the Word

Intro:

This doctrine is placed by the Holy Spirit as a foundation of faith, as milk for young believers. This is not a commonly practiced teaching in the church today because it is hard to understand. Since the Bible declares this as milk of the Word, we need to drink freely and practice this doctrine in our churches and families.

1. **Laying on of hands** to recognize or initiate into special service.

Acts 6:6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and **laid their hands on them**.

Acts 13:1-3 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, **they placed their hands on them** and sent them off.

1 Timothy 5:22 Do not be hasty in **the laying on of hands**, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

2. **Laying on of hands** to bless children.

Matthew 19:13-15 Then little children were **brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them**. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. ¹⁴ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ¹⁵ When **he had placed his hands on them**, he went on from there.

Mark 10:13-16 People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ **And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.**

3. **Laying on of hands** to gift for ministry.

1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect your **gift**, which was **given** you through a prophetic message **when the body of elders laid their hands on you.**

2 Timothy 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame **the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.**

4. **Laying on of hands** as a way to heal.

Mark 1:41-42 Filled with compassion, **Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.** "I am willing," he said. **"Be clean!"** **42 Immediately the leprosy left him** and he was cured.

Mark 6:5 He could not do any miracles there, except **lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.**

Acts 9:12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and **place his hands on him to restore his sight.**

Acts 9:17-18 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. **Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-- Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-- has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."** ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

Acts 28:8 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, **after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.**



Milk of the Word

Intro:

Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, noted that Jesus, *"After his suffering, he showed himself to these men (Apostles) and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive (resurrected)."* **Acts 1:3**

To this day, the doctrine of the Resurrection is a key source of the Christian's belief, hope and obedience in Christ.

1. Documented eyewitness accounts of **Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead.**

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: {³ Or you at the first} that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, {⁵ Greek Cephas} and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

2. The Basis of our Belief: **Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead.**

Luke 9:22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

Luke 24:6-7 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."

John 2:18-22 Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ²⁰ The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead,

his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Acts 2:31-32 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, {31 Or Messiah. "The Christ" (Greek) and "the Messiah" (Hebrew) both mean "the Anointed One"; also in verse 36.} that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.

Acts 4:33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all."

Romans 1:3-4 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit {4 Or who as to his spirit} of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. The Basis of our Hope: **Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead.**

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Acts 4:2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

Acts 23:6 Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. I stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead."

Philippians 3:10-11 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4. The Basis of our Obedience Unto Death: **Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead.**

1 Corinthians 15:10-11 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

1 Corinthians 15:19-20 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Hebrews 11:25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

Hebrews 11:35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.

Luke 14:14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. **(We gain our sure reward at the resurrection.)**

5. There are two **resurrections**.

John 5:24-29 I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵ I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

Acts 24:15 and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

Revelation 20:5-6 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

1. **The Resurrection of the Righteous: 2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **(The resurrection to life.)**
2. **The Resurrection of the Wicked: Revelation 20:11-15** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. **(Resurrection to 2nd Death.)**

6. There is no marriage after the **resurrection**.

Luke 20:35-36 But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, ³⁶ and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection.

7. **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ** is to be preached to the ordinary and intellectual.

Acts 17:18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. **(Preached to intellectuals.)**

1 Corinthians 1:26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth." **(Preached to ordinary with accepting response.)**

Acts 17:32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." **(The response of the intellectual.)**



Milk of the Word

Eternal Punishment

Matthew 25:46 Then they will go away to **eternal** punishment, but the righteous to **eternal** life.

^{GNT} **Matthew 25:46** καὶ ἀπελεύσονται οὗτοι εἰς κόλασιν **αἰώνιον** οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν **αἰώνιον**

In Matthew 25:46, the author makes clear that Jesus teaches there is an eternal punishment, as sure as there is an eternal life. The word eternal is highlighted in bold print in both the English and the Greek text. Although you may not read Greek, you can see the word is the same when used to modify both punishment and life.

Romans 3:21-26 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, {²⁵ or as the one who would turn aside his wrath, taking away sin} through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished - ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

These verses (Matthew 25:46 & Romans 3:21-26) show us that we are made righteous by faith in Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

^{NKJ} **John 3:36** He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

Jude 1:7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

Acts 10:42 He **commanded** us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 17:30-31 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he **commands** all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.

1. **The Judgment** of the Person Who Did Not Repent and Believe the Gospel.

Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Note: In verse 15 the grammar reveals that no one appearing before the Great White Throne had his name written in the book of life. All appearing were unbelievers. Believers will appear before Jesus to be judged for a final time also. At that judgment each will receive a reward for the good that has been recorded in the book of their life and pardon for the sin recorded in that same book. See 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10. The pardon for sin is received because each believer's name is recorded in the Lamb's book of life because they believed in Jesus.

Below, **Luke 16:19-31** reveals the picture of eternal torment.

Luke 16:19-31 There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In hell, {23 Greek Hades} where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in **agony in this fire.**" ²⁵ But Abraham replied, "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. **26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.**" ²⁷ "He answered, "Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to **this place of torment.**" ²⁹ "Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them." ³⁰ "No, father Abraham," he said, "but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent." ³¹ He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

2. **The Judgment** of the Person Who Repented and Believed the Gospel.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3, 10-15 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as **people who live by the Spirit** but as **people who are still worldly - mere infants in Christ**.² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.³ You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? ...¹⁰ By the grace

God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.¹⁴ **If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved - even though only as one escaping through the flames.**

Why is **eternal judgement** foundational?

Knowledge of eternal judgment gives the believer motivation to forsake sinful ways and imitate Jesus and to seek to get the message of salvation to those who haven't repented and believed the gospel.

Proverbs 27:12 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

Proverbs 10:29 The way of the Lord is a refuge for the righteous, but it is the ruin of those who do evil.

Note: 1 Corinthians 3:1 tells us of two types of Christians, the Christian living according to God's will and the Christian who is living according to the ways of the world (sin nature). The believer in Jesus Christ will be judged for his works. The works of sin will be burned up and the person will be pardoned and saved (1 Corinthians 3:15) and will be rewarded for the works done according to God's will (1 Corinthians 3:14).



Grace to Obey

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, "The only thing that counts is obeying His commands" (1 Cor 7:19). Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.

Salvation comes entirely by the grace of God. It is important to note, however, that just as we are righteous in Christ by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1-2; Hebrews 10:14), so in the same way do we live out our righteousness: by grace through faith (2 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 4:16; 10:14; Galatians 2:20). Eternal life and abundant life are both experienced by grace through faith.

Intro

Abundant life. That's what everyone's looking for, isn't it? Life to the fullest? Good news: Jesus offers that kind of life. He came that we might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10b). Disciples are introduced to the foundations of an abundant Christian life in the Milk of the Word. Yet the author of Hebrews encourages that it's the teaching on righteousness, or solid food (Heb. 5:13-14), that brings us to maturity.

Jesus stated in nine words the curriculum for abundant living, "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). The Milk of the Word is vital to knowing and growing in Christ. The Meat of the Word carries us onward in a Spirit-filled, obedient righteousness that will make a positive difference in raising children, having a fulfilling godly marriage, in doing business, within our friendships and in everything we are and do no matter the circumstances. Obedience to His commands displays God's glory to a lost and dying world.

Disciple-makers are not only nourished on the Milk of the Word, but daily practice the Meat of the Word and experience the blessings of Christlike maturity.

Our Confidence to Obey: Knowing God

We have confidence to obey the Lord because His purpose is for us to have eternal and abundant life. These purposes are clearly stated in John 3:16 and John 10:10b: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" and "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (emphasis added). The Lord desires for us to be with Him forever (John 14:1-6) and that we experience fullness of life here on earth, even within an environment corrupted by sin (Romans 3:23; 5:12; 8:21,22; Philippians 2:15).

We have confidence to obey the Lord because, as Creator, He knows what is best for us. He knows how we are made (Psalm 139:13-16, Genesis 1:27). He knows what we need (Matthew 6:8,31,32). The Lord, as Creator, has all the power needed to do whatever He commands (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, etc.).

We have confidence to obey the Lord because His actions have given us reason to believe he has our best interests in mind. The Lord's desire for our best interests is made crystal clear by Romans 5:8 and

Romans 8:31-32. The Lord made the greatest sacrifice anyone could make to demonstrate His love for us. He clarified in 8:31 that He is for us and in 8:32 that He will spare nothing for our well-being. We can confidently and eagerly obey Him!

We need confidence in the Lord in order to obey him. For instance, the commands to rejoice, be glad and leap for joy seem rather odd to be following when we are insulted, persecuted, and falsely accused because of Jesus. But that is exactly what Jesus commands believers to do in Matthew 5:11-12 and Luke 6:23. We can trust and obey because we know the Lord.

The Need to Obey: We are Blind

The Lord makes it very clear through the written Word that people are blind, and they don't know they're blind unless it is revealed to them by the Holy Spirit using the written Word (John 16:8-11; Romans 7:7,13). Proverbs 14:12 and 4:19 state this truth: people do what they think is right for them at the time they do it and don't really know why they stumbled and messed up their life (they did what they thought was right). Some go through life without living God's way and are not aware of the destruction until it suddenly comes upon them at the end of their lives (Psalm 73:4, 5, 18-20).

We are blind because of sin's deception. Sin deceives us and hardens our heart to the truth (Hebrews 3:12-13). We are determined to do what we think is right and best for us, but because sin is pleasurable for a season of time (Hebrews 11:25), we are deceived and stumble in the darkness of that deception. We are blind and don't know it – unless we take the Scripture as truth. If we believe that the Scripture is true, then we realize we are blind and in darkness and we seek light and assistance in living life so we can avoid stumbling and ruining ourselves.

We are blind as people because the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4). If we are unbelievers we are blinded to the truth and walk in darkness (Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19). We can walk in darkness as believers if we continue to live like unbelievers in the futility of our own thinking (Ephesians 4:17) and don't continually renew our mind in the truth and put it into practice (Ephesians 4:20-24; Romans 12:2). Satan, the god of this age, deceives even believers if the believers do not stand firm in the truth (1 Peter 5:8-9; 2 Corinthians 11:3).

Psalm 19:8 and Proverbs 6:23 state clearly that God's commands give light in darkness. Jesus commanded that His new disciples be taught to obey everything He commanded the disciples who had followed Him during His three years of teaching (Matthew 28:20). We need to learn and obey the commands of God if we are to experience eternal and abundant life. We will not be deceived if we obey the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator God.

The Psalmist called God's commands a lamp (Psalm 19:8). If we realize we are in darkness, then we desire to have the lamp of His commands. We are commanded, for instance, in Matthew 5:24 to make it a priority, even over offering sacrifice to the Lord, to be reconciled with people. This works to light up our relationships. If we don't realize we are in darkness and think we are in the light (i.e., that we're right), then we are in the dark in many relationships and miss out on the blessing the Lord desires for us.

The Power to Obey: We Can Obey

We, who are powerless on our own to consistently obey His commands, can obey all His commands consistently by using His power. He gives us the grace to obey (1 Peter 5:10; Titus 2:11-14). As believers in Christ we can no longer say, "I can't obey." Instead, when we are failing to obey His commands, we more truthfully must say, "I won't obey."

An example of a command that seems too difficult to obey is found in Luke 17:3-4. In those verses, we are commanded to rebuke the one who sins against us and forgive him if he repents. We are commanded to forgive even seven times in one day. Even though it seems very difficult to obey that command, we have the power to do it.

We, as believers in Jesus Christ have the power to obey everything we are commanded to do by our Lord Jesus Christ. God promised to give us His Spirit to enable us to obey (see Ezekiel 36:27). We received His promised Holy Spirit when we believed the truth of the gospel (Ephesians 1:13-14). The Holy Spirit is God dwelling in us. He empowers us to be able to obey the truth continuously. We can do beyond what we can think or imagine according to His power at work within us (Ephesians 3:20). We can do all things He commands us to do because He is in us strengthening us (Philippians 4:13).

We exercise the power we have by continuously exercising faith as Paul states in Galatians 2:20. Living by faith can be defined as follows: "attempting to obey expecting the Lord to fulfill our act of faith with His power" (see Paul's prayer in 2 Thessalonians 1:11). We can obey every command the Lord has given us. The command may seem impossible for us to do, but if we attempt to obey, the Lord will do for us and through us what is impossible for us to do without Him (NOTE: John 15:5 states very clearly that apart from Him we can do nothing).

EXAMPLE: The picture of using the power of a car gives some idea how this exercise of faith works. We have all of the car's power at our disposal, but we move forward in power only when we press down on the gas pedal, and we stop the car in power only when we press the break pedal. Attempting to obey God's commands is like stepping down on the gas pedal to do what he tells us to do, or stepping down on the break pedal to stop doing what he tells us not to do. The power is released and we have divine assistance in fulfilling our attempt at obedience.

The Blessings of Obedience

Obeying God's commands allows us to experience his blessings. Two commands in particular open the door to those blessings: "repent" and "believe" (Mark 1:15). "Repent" means "to change one's mind." "Believe" means "to consider something to be true and therefore worthy of one's trust."

When we repent and believe the gospel, God gives us the righteousness of God (Romans 4:16, 21, 22-25; 6:16, 19; 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4). This is called positional righteousness or justification. We use what we have been given by obeying his commands through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is called experiential righteousness or sanctification (Romans 6:19). In other words, when we obey we experience the righteousness we have already been given.

By God's grace, we repent and believe the gospel in order to experience the blessing of positional righteousness, the removal of the penalty of sin by complete forgiveness of sins (Romans 4:6-8), the blessing of eternal life (Romans 5:21), and the receiving of the promised Holy Spirit by whom we inherit all of God's blessings and the power to live the abundant life (Ephesians 1:3, 13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:11-14; John 10:10b).

Obedience to every other command of Christ causes us to live righteously (Romans 6:16). When we obey the commands of Christ, we experience the abundant life Jesus came to bring us (John 10:10b). The following verses list some of the blessings that accompany obedient, or righteous, living:

1. **Positional and experiential righteousness (obedient living by the power of the Holy Spirit) protect us from the powers of darkness.** Ephesians 6:14
2. **Experiential righteousness yields peaceful fruit.** Hebrews 12:11
3. **Experiential righteousness yields blessing even when it results in persecution.** 1 Peter 3:14
4. **Experiential righteousness is evidence of being born again.** 1 John 2:29; 3:7
5. **Experiential righteousness blesses the individual.** Proverbs 10:6
6. **Experiential righteousness blesses the family.** Proverbs 3:33b
7. **Experiential righteousness blesses the city.** Proverbs 11:10-11
8. **Experiential righteousness exalts a nation.** Proverbs 14:34
9. **Experiential righteousness reaps a sure reward.** Proverbs 11:18

The word "righteous" or "righteousness" is used 78 times in the New International Version's (NIV) translation of Proverbs. Count the blessings (personal, family, city, nation)!

Jeremiah 4:1-2 (NIV) - Shows that righteousness blesses the nations.

John 17:23 - Righteousness yields a unified testimony to the world concerning God sending His son and loving His people.

The Results of Persistently Obeying the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 7:19 (ESV) For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God.

1 Corinthians 7:19 (GNT) ἡ περιτομή οὐδέν ἐστιν καὶ ἡ ἀκροβυστία οὐδέν ἐστιν, ἀλλὰ τήρησις ἐντολῶν θεοῦ.

Define: τήρησις,εως,ῆ [τηρέω] "obeying" - act of observing instruction, keeping, obeying

- 1. We make disciples who make disciples when we obey God's commands.** Matthew 28:19-20 - observe (τήρησις,εως,ῆ [τηρέω] "obey"
- 2. We gain God's provision when we obey His commands.** Matthew 6:33
- 3. We gain a growing intimacy with the Lord when we obey Him.** John 14:21, 23
- 4. We bear much fruit when we obey God's commands.** John 15:5 (1 John 3:24)
- 5. We gain answered prayer when we obey God's commands and pray according to His Word.** John 15:7 (1 John 3:24)
- 6. We defeat the enemy when we obey God's commands.** James 4:7
- 7. We express love to people and God when we obey His commands.** 1 John 5:2-3

Look it Up

Locate the 150+ commands in the New Testament in addition to the Ten Commandments that are summarized in Matthew 22:37-39.

Resource for Further Study

Need help? Download a copy of ***The Commands of Christ ebook*** on our website. This ebook contains a list of the Lord's commands in parallel translations to help you study them more effectively.

For more disciple-making resources: plethosglobal.com

What Did the Lord Command Us to Do?

The following commands are a few of the more than 150 commands the Lord has given us in the New Testament:

Matthew 28:20 "Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Matthew 17:5 "Listen to Him [Jesus Christ]."

Matthew 22:37 (see also 1 John 5:3) "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:39 (see also 1 John 5:2) "Love your neighbor as yourself."

1 John 5:2-3 - We express love to people and to God by obeying His commands.