

# FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

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Student Mobilization

*It is not the beauty of a building you should look at; it is the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time.*

*David Allan Coe*

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# WHOEVER HAS THE SON HAS LIFE

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If you were to die today, how sure are you that you would go to heaven? What percent chance do you have? Why?

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

The Bible has a lot to say about getting to heaven. Assurance of Salvation is a FEELING. Feelings are not facts, but feelings do come from what we think are the facts. So, what are the facts about going to heaven?

What do you base your salvation on? Is it on what you heard one time? Is it on what you have always believed? Or, is it based on what the Bible says? And if so, where in the Bible? Let's look at what the Bible says.

-Who has eternal life? 1 John 5:11-12

-What do you think it means to have the Son?

-Who is someone else that you have 100% confidence that they will go to heaven? How would you know they have the Son?

The Bible makes it very clear. In this world, there are only two types of people. Those who have the Son and those who don't. Those who have eternal life and those who don't.

## **Key #1 Whoever has the son has eternal life.**

\*What are some things that can make us doubt if we have the Son or not?

-How do we get eternal life? John 5:24

-What do you think Jesus means by believe in this verse?

-According to Ephesians 2:8-9, how are we not saved?

Hearing the gospel and putting our trust in the gospel is what it means to receive Christ. This is how we get eternal life. Gifts can only be received. If they are earned, they would be a wage. Never does God ask us to pay for or work for our salvation!

## Key #2 Those who receive Christ have Christ.

\*Why do you think we look to places other than Christ for eternal life?

-How do we know we have received Christ? 2 Cor. 5:17

-What are some of the new things that will come when we receive Christ? Romans 8:9-11 &15-17

-What do you think it means to be a co-heir with Christ?

-If the old has not gone, what can we assume?

When we receive Christ, we become a new creation. It's not a maybe. We change. We have God's power working in us to make us more and more like Christ. If we have not changed, we should not assume we have received!

## Key #3 We know we have received Christ because we are a new creation.

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\*What most excites you about being a new creation?

Put it all together now. **IF** you have the Son, you have eternal life and will 100% be going to heaven. You get the Son by deciding to receive Christ. You know you have received Christ because your life is changing. So... have you received Christ? If you say yes, is your life changing? Now, answer this question again using the three Keys: if you were to die today, what percent chance do you have of going to heaven and why?

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

### More Verses:

#### Key #1

*John 3:16*

#### Key #2

*John 1:12*

*Rom 10:9-10*

#### Key #3

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

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### Application:

Faith, Fact, Feeling Train

Lessons on Assurance: Five Life-Changing Bible Studies and Memory Verses for New Christians (Growing in Christ)

# CONFESSION RESTORES RELATIONSHIP

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Multiple Choice: Those who receive Christ are going to heaven, I believe I have received Christ. Therefore, I am going to heaven, but if I commit a sin, my ability to go to heaven is affected like this:

- a) Nothing happens, I'm still going to heaven.
- b) I need to receive Christ again.
- c) It depends on the sin.
- d) It depends on my attitude.

If I am 100% sure I am going to heaven when I die because of the facts found in the Bible, what happens when I sin? Does my percentage go down? Does it change the facts? If it doesn't, why not just keep sinning?

The Bible specifically deals with these questions! No Christian has ever lived a sinless life since receiving Christ. Therefore, every Christian has had to answer these questions! What do we do when we sin? And what do we do with the feelings of guilt associated with it? Let's see what the Bible has to say about this!

- According to these verses, what comes with being in sin? Psalm 32:3-4, Isaiah 59:1-2

-When was a time you felt like this?

-Why do think God allows these things to happen when we sin?

It feels terrible when we sin! It's embarrassing, we want to hide. It hurts our pride, we want to avoid. The feelings are real, sin has real consequences! We feel the distance, but the Bible never says that God disowns us or that we lose our relationship with God.

## **Key #1 Sin distances our relationship with God.**

\*What other consequences can come from being in sin and distant from God?

-How do we fix the distance? 1 John 1:9

-How would you define confession?

-What makes confessing sin difficult for you?

The Bible says that God is faithful to forgive us, His children, when we confess. We are His children because we have received His Son. Confess simply means to agree with God that something is sin. "Maybe it was" is not confession! God, I confess I acted in anger, I committed adultery with my eyes, I acted in jealousy...and I was wrong. That's confession! And this forgiveness is not so we can go to heaven, it's so our relationship is restored!

## **Key #2 When we confess, we restore relationship!**

\*What would help you confess your sins more regularly?

-Why is there hope in fighting sin? 1 Cor. 10:13?

-What do think it means that God will provide a way out?

-Can you think of time you have seen God provide a way out for you? What did it look like?

Again, God is faithful! This time, God is making sure you will NEVER be tempted beyond what you can handle. Temptation is never stronger than God's ability to give us a way out! This is huge! Now if we can just have the eyes to see it when God is giving us a way out and the strength to choose His way.

## **Key #3 God will always provide a way to overcome temptation!**

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\*What do you think your role is when battling with temptation? What is God's role?

Committing sin does not affect the decision we made to receive Christ and therefore it does not affect our ability to go to heaven. Sin does affect our relationship with God, but God is faithful to restore us if confess! God always gives His children the ability to overcome! If we question anything about going to heaven, we should question **if** we have ever received Christ.

## More Verses:

### Key #1

*Gen. 3:8-10,23*

### Key #2

*Psalms 32:5*

### Key #3

*Romans 7:25*

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## Application:

- Confess sins to God.
- Confess sins to others.

# POWER COMES FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

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-What do you think of when someone mentions The Holy Spirit?

It's OK if you can't think of much. He's very much like electricity. He's the power source. You can feel Him, but you can't see Him. And you are missing a lot if you aren't using Him!

Multiple Choice: When do we receive the Holy Spirit?

- a) when we are baptized
- b) when we receive Christ
- c) when we ask
- d) everyone has the Holy Spirit

-When do we receive the Holy Spirit? Ephesians 1:13-14

-In v14 what do you think it means that the Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance?

The Bible talks a lot about the Holy Spirit. He is the third person of the Trinity. And His work in our life is very important! Let's see what the Bible has to say about Him!

-Where does the Holy Spirit live? 1 Cor. 6:19-20

Where the Holy Spirit lives is a motivation given to not sin. As followers of Christ, our bodies are a temple. The Bible **does not** warn us that the Holy Spirit will leave us if we sin. In the same way, your parents may have rules while you are at their house. If you break the rules, it doesn't stop becoming their house.

**Key #1 The Holy Spirit permanently lives in the believer.**

\*What excites you about the Holy Spirit permanently living in you?

-What do we do with the Holy Spirit? Eph. 5:18

-What are similarities between being filled with wine and being filled with the Holy Spirit?

We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, even though He already lives in us! When a man fills himself with wine, he becomes drunk. And a drunken man has a unique way of acting. In the same way, when a man fills himself with the Holy Spirit, he acts in a unique way. And we get to decide if we are filled with the Spirit.

## Key #2 We must decide to be filled with the Spirit.

\*What do you think it looks like for a believer to choose to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

-Why should we be filled with the Spirit? Gal. 5:16

-What are other consequences that can come from choosing our flesh over The Spirit?

-According to Romans 8:5, what role do our minds play in living for the Spirit

When we are filled by the Spirit, we do not sin. We always have a choice, to live by the Spirit or to live by the flesh. When we sin, we have made a decision to live by the flesh. When we decide to live by the Spirit, we give Him control of our life, we listen to Him, we follow Him, and He gives us the power we need to do the actions God created us for!

## Key #3 The Holy Spirit gives us the power to live a godly life.

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\*What areas of your life most need the power of the Holy Spirit right now?

A Spirit-filled life is the life of a Christian that allows the Holy Spirit, who lives inside him, to control His life. When we sin, we have made a decision to live by our flesh. It is essential at this point to learn to take a "spiritual breath". Breath out: Confess your sin. "God forgive me for \_\_\_\_\_. Forgive me for taking control." Breathe in: "Holy Spirit, I know you live in me, take control and empower me to do Your will".

### More Verses:

**Key #1**  
Eph. 1:13-14  
Romans 8:9

**Key #2**  
Gal. 5:16-23

**Key #3**  
Acts 1:8  
2 Tim 1:7

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### Application:

Spiritual Breathing

# THE STANDARD

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Of the following options, which most describes how you determine if something is true? Why?

- |                          |                                 |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a.) If I feel it's true  | c.) If a teacher says it's true | e.) If my parents told me |
| b.) if I think it's true | d.) If science says it's true   | f.) There is no truth.    |

Ultimately, there can only be one source of truth, one standard. You may think: "I have multiple sources of truth and I just decide which one to listen to." However, in this scenario, your decision is the source of truth! We currently live in a culture that embraces this belief: "I get to decide what is true." Loosely, this is known as humanism. Christians are not Humanists. What is our standard for truth?

-What is truth? John 17:17

-Why do you think it is important to have a correct standard of truth?

-Where does Truth come from? 2 Tim. 3:16

-What do you think it means that "all scripture is God breathed"?

God has given us truth. A physical book that we can hold and read and know the truth! There is no book in the world like the Bible. Nothing! Try to think of something right now. Google it. Nothing compares.

## **Key #1 The Bible is truth.**

\*What are the benefits of truth being God's breathed words rather than man's words?

-What are 4 ways the Bible helps us? 2 Tim. 3:16

-How is the Bible described? Psalm 119:105

The Bible is a written, unchangeable truth that teaches us how to live. It teaches us, it rebukes us, it corrects us, and it trains us in right living. It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Without the Bible, we would have to guess as to how God wants us to live.

## Key #2 We need direction.

\*What are some areas in your life right now that you need the direction of God's word?

-How is the Bible described? Heb. 4:12

-What do you think it means that the Bible "is living and active"?

-Why do you think we might need the thoughts and attitudes of our heart to be judged by God's word?

- What are the effects of the Bible found in Psalm 19:7-8?

-Where besides God's word do you go for these effects?

-What are some of the problems you have found in going to these places or things?

Some may say the Bible was written so long ago, how can it apply to today's situations. It can because the Word of God is alive and active. The effects of God's Word on man is not restricted to only the audience and generation it was written in. The Bible although thousands of years old, still applies today!

## Key #3 The Bible is alive.

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The Bible is our standard of truth, our source.

**Test:** If I thought or believed one thing and I find that the Bible says something different, which response is yours?

- a.) The Bible is a little old fashioned and I think it somehow agrees with me.
- b.) I must be wrong because the Bible is truth.

How you answer this question shows what your standard is.

## More Verses:

### Key #1

2 Peter 1:20-21

Psalms 119:160

### Key #2

Rom. 12:2

Joshua 1:8

### Key #3

Matt. 5:18

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## Application:

- Daily reading the Bible
- SPECK Bible study
- Inductive Bible study
- Verse memorization
- Listening to podcasts
- Attending church and taking notes
- Meditating on verses

# TALKING TO GOD

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What most describes your prayer life? Why do you think this is?

- a.) talking to God before bed
- b.) thanking God before food
- c.) praying in a group
- d.) pleading for an A before a big test!
- e.) talking to God about bad things happening to me or others
- f.) talking to God when I wake up
- g.) I don't really pray

Everyone has heard of prayer. Everyone knows that we should pray. The Bible describes Jesus and other great men and women as praying. Why did they pray? Because they had to pray, or because they wanted to pray?

-How are we to approach God's throne? Heb. 4:16

-What do you think looks like to approach God in prayer like this?

-What gives us this ability? Heb. 10:19

We hear about prayer so often, that we forget it is a privilege given to us through the life and death of Jesus Christ. When we made a decision to receive Christ, we made peace with God. And because we have peace, we can now approach Him with confidence! This is why we say: "In Jesus' name" when we pray. It's an acknowledgement that our ability to talk to God is because of Jesus.

## **Key #1 Jesus' life and death allows us to pray.**

\*In what ways do you take for granted the privilege of praying to God?

-Why do we not have things sometimes? James 4:2

-How does God describe His response to our requests? Matt. 7:9-11

-Why do think God knows how to give you good gifts?

Have you ever bought something and never used it? This often happens in the Christian's life. Jesus bought us the opportunity to pray and, often, Christians don't pray! God says...Ask me! Talk to me! I give better gifts than the best father.

## **Key #2 God wants us to pray.**

\*What motivates you to pray more often?

-What types of things should we pray for? Phil. 4:6-7

- Why do you think Paul encourages us to pray with thanksgiving in Phil 4:6-7?

-How should we not pray? Matt. 6:7-8

-Can you think of motivations to pray that could be dangerous?

In everything, we are to pray! Nothing is too big, nothing is too small. We are not to be worried about anything! Sometimes we hesitate to pray because we don't know what to say. Just say what's on your heart, don't make it complicated. God knows your heart.

## **Key #3 Keep prayer simple.**

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\*What keeps you from praying more?

\*What is one thing you could do to help you talk to God more this week?

God gave us the privilege of prayer. He wants us to talk to Him and He wants us to keep it simple. If you aren't regularly praying right now, make it a goal to spend at least 5 minutes of every day praying. And if you are regularly praying, ask other people how they pray in order to find out more variations!

## More Verses:

### Key #1

Romans 5:1

1 John 5:14-15

### Key #2

1 Peter 5:7

Luke 18:1-8

### Key #3

1 Thess 5:16-18

Matt. 6:9-15



## Application:

- ACTS prayer method
- Praying through a Psalm
- Ripple Prayer method
- Praying for the nations: Operation World
- Top 5 prayer list.
- Prayers for each day of the week
- Prayer Journals

# MADE FOR EACH OTHER

Who are your top five friendships?

\_\_\_\_\_

Fellowship is not a word we use regularly. It comes from the Greek word "koinonia" and it means "to hold something in common". For a Christian, that something is our relationship with Jesus. Fellowship is more than a greek house, a university, or a hometown. It's about Christ. And biblically, fellowship is not just something you are, it's something you do!

-What pronoun does God use to describe Himself? *Gen. 1:26*

-Why do you think God created us by the community of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

-How did God create us? *Gen. 1:27*

*-In what ways do you think God desires us to be like him?*

*-Why do you think having fellowship can help us be more like God?*

God is fellowship. One of the oldest concepts Christians wanted to remember about God is that He is Trinity. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God has never ever been alone. He has always had fellowship. And He created us in His image to be like Him. If we try to live the Christian life alone, we are not being like God.

## **Key #1 We are created for fellowship.**

\*What are some reasons you might like doing things by yourself at times?

-What are some dangers you face when you do life by yourself?

-What dangers are there in doing life with the wrong or bad company? *1 Cor. 15:33*

-What does one person do to another? *Prov. 27:17*

-What are some ways your top 5 friends sharpen you spiritually?

You will never overcome the power of peer pressure. That doesn't mean you can't use it! Good company destroys bad character. The people around you will sharpen you to be just like them. Who we fellowship with is one of the most important decisions we can make to help us live a godly life.

## Key #2 Peer pressure can help you.

\*Spiritually, what are some areas you need more positive peer pressure to sharpen you?

-What two actions should Christians do when another sins? *Gal. 6:1-2*

-What do you think it means to restore someone gently?

-What do think it means to carry each other's burdens?

-Why is confession important in sharing your burdens? *James 5:16*

We need a fellowship that will restore us when we commit sin. And we need others to share our burdens. A burden is a load that is too heavy to carry ourselves. And too many of us try to carry our burdens ourselves. Many times this results in stress. Managing stress is very important. We need people in our lives to say "this is what is really going on." We need to confess our sins and pray for each other. God says it brings healing.

## Key #3 Fellowships share burdens.

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\*How do you know if you shouldn't share burdens with some people?

God wants us to be just like Him: in a fellowship. Everyone needs to have 2-3 people in their life that knows everything about them. A fellowship will help you become more like Christ. It will share your burdens. Who are 5 people that can become your fellowship, if they aren't already?

\_\_\_\_\_

## More Verses:

### Key #1

Gen. 2:18-24  
Matt. 22:36- 40

### Key #2

Heb. 10:24-25  
Prov. 13:20

### Key #3

Eccl. 4:9-12  
James 5:19-20



## Application:

- Accountability group
- Accountability questions
- Inner Circle

# OBEDIENCE IS NOT OPTIONAL

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How would you define a lord?

- a. Someone you could obey.
- b. Someone you should obey.
- c. Someone you must obey.
- d. Someone you sometimes obey.

The answer is obvious, but the American culture does not have an equivalent of lord. We are a free nation! Some definitions of lord are: master, owner, one who has control of the person, and he to whom a person belongs. Over 700 times in the New Testament, Jesus is called our lord.

-What has been given to Jesus? *Matt. 28:18*

-What do you think it looks like give Jesus this sort of control?

-Does it seem radical to give Jesus this sort of authority in your life? Why or why not?

-One day, what will every person say about Jesus? *Phil. 2:9-11*

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. He has the name above all names. Every person that has ever lived one day will bow their knee before Jesus. But, God gives us a choice on earth to acknowledge this truth and live by it or ignore this truth and live with ourself as lord. Who Jesus is, is a truth we can acknowledge or ignore.

## Key #1 Jesus is Lord.

\*If you did an inventory of your life what competes against Jesus as your Lord?

-What held "doubting Thomas" back from believing Jesus was his Lord? *John 20:27-28*

-What are some common things that hold your friends back from making Jesus their Lord?

-All of God's people call on what name? *1 Corinthians 1:2*

When Thomas finally realized who Jesus was, he called him: "My Lord and My God!". Jesus has always been this, but Thomas just figured it out. All of God's people have a time in their life when they realize who Jesus is. And at this point, we can either receive Christ or reject Christ. At the beginning of almost every book of the New Testament the author refers to "our Lord Jesus Christ" because when we receive Christ, we receive all of Him: Savior and Lord!

## **Key #2 When we receive Christ, we make Him our Lord.**

\*Why does our life need to look different if we call Jesus our Lord?

-What problem does Jesus have with some who call him Lord? *Luke 6:46*

-Why do you think this problem still exist in our culture today?

-Who will enter the kingdom of heaven and who will not? *Matt. 7:21*

It is so easy to say Jesus is Lord, it's more difficult to obey our Lord. Jesus sees everything. He is not fooled by words. He sees our hearts, he sees our actions. If we don't follow Him as Lord, it is questionable if we have ever received Him. In Matt. 7, Jesus questions a person that calls Him Lord, but doesn't live with Jesus as his Lord. Notice in verse 23, Jesus says: "I never knew you". This person has never received Christ.

## **Key #3 Obedience is required from our Lord.**

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\*What do you think could help you view this requirement as a joy from the Lord?

Jesus is Lord. This will never change. What can change is our decision to follow Him as Lord. Obedience is not optional because when we receive Christ, we receive Him as our Savior and our Lord. Jesus is either Lord of all, or not Lord at all. We have either received Him completely or not at all. As we grow, we become better servants of our Lord!

## More Verses:

### Key #1

Colossians 1:15-23

Hebrews 2:8-9

### Key #2

Ephesians 1:15

Romans 10:9-13

### Key #3

1 John 3:6-9

Mark 10:17-22



## Application:

- Self directed vs Christ directed life.
- The two pie charts.

# OUR CURRENT MISSION

In one sentence, how would you describe our purpose as a Christian?

We are saved by Christ and when we die, we will go to heaven and spend all of eternity with Him! But, what are we supposed to be doing in the meantime? Has God given us an overall vision for our time on earth? Or do each one of us need to figure it out ourselves? Here is what you will find: God has given us a mission and all of us can participate!

-What 4 things does Jesus say to do in *Matt. 28:19-20*?

-What do you think it means to make disciples?

-How many "generations" can you see in this verse? *2 Timothy 2:2*

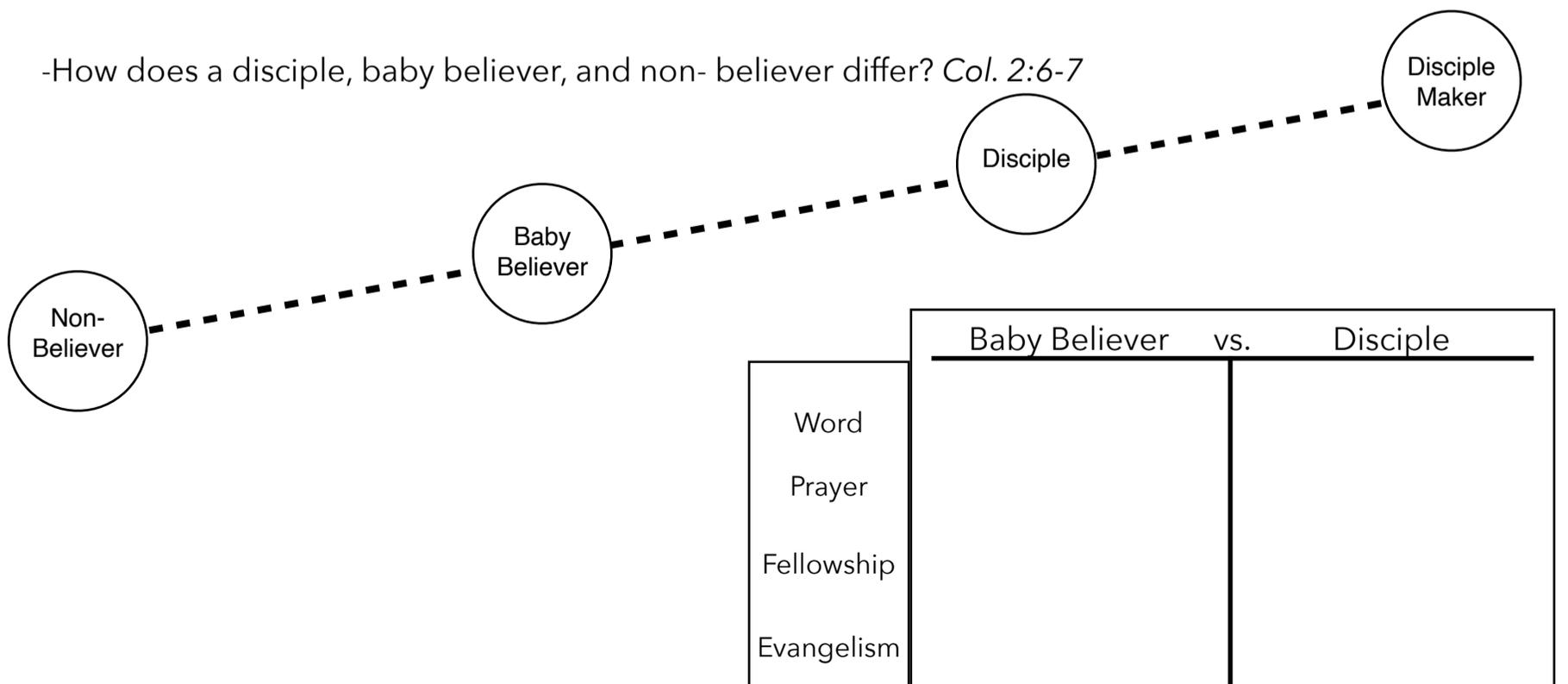
-What do think Paul means by reliable people qualified to teach others?

As Jesus was leaving this earth, he told his disciples to do 4 things, but only one of them was the main verb and command. It's very clear in the original language. Jesus said: "Make Disciples". As Paul was getting ready to leave this earth, he told his key disciple to make disciples and keep it going.

## Key #1 The mission Jesus gives us is to make disciples.

\*Would you say your life reflects this mission right now? Why or Why not?

-How does a disciple, baby believer, and non- believer differ? *Col. 2:6-7*



We all start life as a non-believer. At some point in time, we made a decision to receive Christ. Some people stop right there and remain as a baby believer the rest of their lives. Some, however, begin to grow in their faith. And as they grow, they begin passing on what they have learned to the next generation and become a disciple maker!

## Key #2 Disciples are rooted and built up in Jesus, established in the faith.

\*How do you need to grow so that you can move towards making disciples?

What word is used to describe how the church initially grew? *Acts 2:41*

What word is used to describe the church growth later? *Acts 6:7*

What are some differences between being a disciple and making disciples?

### Addition

vs.

### Multiplication

Year 1	1,000 baby believers	<input type="text" value="1000"/>
Year 2	2,000 baby believers	<input type="text" value="1000"/> + <input type="text" value="1000"/>
Year 3	3,000 baby believers	<input type="text" value="1000"/> + <input type="text" value="1000"/> + <input type="text" value="1000"/>
...		
Year 30	_____ baby believers	

Year 1	2 disciples	
Year 2	4 disciples	
Year 3	8 disciples	
...		
Year 30	_____ disciples	

Addition starts off faster and can be really tempting to become our mission, but the goal has always been to multiply. Did you know that if you made one disciple every year and your disciples all did the same that you would make disciples of the whole world in 33 years? By contrast if you added 1,000 new baby believers every year, it would take you over 7 million years? And even more, do you think Jesus would rather have baby believers or disciples to represent Him in the world?

## Key #3 Multiplication reaches the world!

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\*Why do you think that God wants us to become disciple makers?

Jesus gave the command when He left the earth: Make disciples. It was recorded at the end of every gospel and the first chapter of the book of Acts. It is a standing mission for every believer. And every believer can accomplish and further this mission! If you aren't actively progressing in your faith, you will digress!

## More Verses:

**Key #1**

Matt. 4:19

**Key #2**

Hebrews 5:11-14

**Key #3**

Acts 1:8



## Application:

What is one thing you need to do put yourself in a better position to make disciples?