



OUR FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH
1ST CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

Our Foundations Of Faith

- On his second missionary journey Paul found himself in Athens waiting for Silas and Timothy to join
- Athens was university center of the world where several great philosophical came from
 - Name like Demosthenes, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle...
 - These men established patterns of thought that have affected human learning for centuries and still to this day

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- **Acts 17:16-17 NLT**, 16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. 17 He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there.

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- **Acts 17:22-23 NLT**, 22 So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, 23 for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about.
- So, Paul began telling them of the Elohim, “God”

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- **Acts 17:24 NLT**, 24 “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples.”
- They had no problem with this teaching and understood it

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- **Acts 17:26 NLT**, 26 From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.
- He is the God of history and is intimate with His creation

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- **Acts 17:27-28a NLT**, 27 “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. 28 For in him we live and move and exist.”
- These great thinkers did not have a problem with this teaching

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- **Acts 17:31a NLT**, 31 For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed
- They did not have an issue with this statement

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- **Acts 17:31b-32a NLT**, “and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.” 32 When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some (*most*) laughed in contempt.
- There is the line of demarcation
- I can understand God being and doing all of the other
- But dead people do not return from the dead
- I will give you ghosts or even spirit beings, but not a human resurrected body

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- This is exactly what Paul had taught the church at Corinth
- This is what they had believed for their salvation
- Then this Greek thinking entered that church
- What will Paul do? Does it really matter? Is it foundational for a Christian's faith?

Scripture

- **1st Corinthians 15:1-8 NLT**, 1 Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. 2 It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place (unless you never believed it in the first place).

Scripture

- **1st Corinthians 15:1-8 NLT**, 3 I passed on to you what was most important (foundational) and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. 6 After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

Scripture

- **1st Corinthians 15:1-8 NLT**, 7 Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

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- **Hebrews 11:1 NIV**, 1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
 - **NLT**, Faith shows (*in the way we live*) the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.
 - The changes in our lives after salvation show us and the world the reality of what we have not fully received yet

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- We as Christians live with one foot in eternity and the other in the here and now
- It is that faith that allows the eternal to alter the way we live in the physical
- A believer's faith is not blind, I hope so faith
- It is anchored in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God
- Paul proclaims these truths as "First Important"

Fact 1: Jesus died for our sins and was buried according to Scripture

- Jesus died for our sins is a theological explanation of a historical fact
 - Many people were crucified during this time, but only one “victim” ever died for the sins of the world
 - All according to scripture

Fact 1: Jesus died for our sins and was buried according to Scripture

- Abraham was told by God to sacrifice his only, unique, promised son Isaac
- There on the mountain a substitute for Isaac was delivered by God
- Much of the Old Testament sacrificial system points to the substitutionary death of Jesus

Fact 1: Jesus died for our sins and was buried according to Scripture

- **Isaiah 53:4-6 NLT**, 4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows (*sin sickness*) that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

Fact 1: Jesus died for our sins and was buried according to Scripture

- **Isaiah 53:9 NLT**, 9 He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.
- Isaiah prophesied this over 700 years before Jesus walked this earth
- Christ died and was buried according to Scripture

Fact 2: Jesus bodily arose on the third day according to Scripture

- **John 2:18-19 NLT**, 18 But the Jewish leaders demanded, “What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.” 19 “All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”
 - **Matthew 27:63 NLT**, 63 They told him, “Sir, we remember what that deceiver once said while he was still alive: ‘After three days I will rise from the dead.’”

Fact 2: Jesus bodily arose on the third day according to Scripture

- **Matthew 12:39-40 NLT**, 39 But Jesus replied, “Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign *(after all I have already shown you)*; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

Fact 2: Jesus bodily arose on the third day according to Scripture

- **Psalms 16:9-10 NIV**, 9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, 10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful (*holy*) one see decay
- Christ arose on the third day according to Scripture

Fact 3: Jesus was seen by multiple people, over several days, in various locations

- On the cross, Jesus was exposed to the eyes of unbelievers, but after the resurrection, He was seen by believers who could be His witnesses

Fact 3: Jesus was seen by multiple people, over several days, in various locations

- Paul gives us only a partial list, excluding any by the various women
 - He was seen by Mary Magdalen at the tomb
 - The disciples in the upper room
 - Two men on the road to Emmaus
 - Then Peter alone
 - 500 disciples at one time, most alive go ask them

Fact 3: Jesus was seen by multiple people, over several days, in various locations

- Paul gives us only a partial list, excluding any by the various women
 - He appeared to His unbelieving half-brother James
 - Lastly, He appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus
 - Hundreds of people in so many different locations it would be impossible to fabricate, impossible to hold a lie together

Fact 3: Jesus was seen by multiple people, over several days, in various locations

- But the greatest witness to the resurrection of Jesus is Paul himself
 - As an unbeliever he was soundly convinced that Jesus was dead
 - Even to the point of arresting and putting in prison believers to be executed
 - Paul stated he was the worst of all sinner

Fact 3: Jesus was seen by multiple people, over several days, in various locations

- But the greatest witness to the resurrection of Jesus is Paul himself
 - The total, instant change in Paul's life can only be explained by his witnessing the risen Christ
 - Paul makes it plain it was only God's grace that brought this about, he wasn't looking for it

The general question

- The question is asked in every generation, “Do you have to believe the resurrection is literally true -- that Jesus came back to life in his body -- to be a Christian?”
 - If not, how do you explain the empty tomb?
 - How do you explain the burial wrapping still in place, but the body gone?
 - How do you explain the face cloth that was inside the burial wrapping out and over to the side?

The general question

- The question is asked in every generation, “Do you have to believe the resurrection is literally true -- that Jesus came back to life in his body -- to be a Christian?”
 - How do you explain the tomb stone rolled away that weighed between 2,000 to 6,000 pounds and rolled uphill
 - How do you explain the activities and appearances of Jesus after His resurrection

The general question

- The question is asked in every generation, “Do you have to believe the resurrection is literally true -- that Jesus came back to life in his body -- to be a Christian?”
 - **Romans 10:9 NIV**, 9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
 - **1st Corinthians 17:17 NLT**, 17 if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.

The general question

- The question is asked in every generation, “Do you have to believe the resurrection is literally true -- that Jesus came back to life in his body -- to be a Christian?”
 - **John 11:25-26 NIV**, 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die (*physically*); 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never (*eternally*) die. Do you believe this?”



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