

Christians on Campus
Acts Bible Study
Summer 2020

The Items of the Faith as Seen in the Apostles' Gospel Messages

I. The content of the gospel—the common faith (Titus 1:4):

- A. The Bible is the complete divine revelation inspired word-by-word by God (2 Tim. 3:16).
- B. God is uniquely one, yet triune—Father, Son, and Spirit (1 Tim. 2:5; Matt. 28:19).
- C. God was incarnated to be a man (Jesus Christ) (John 1:1, 14).
- D. Christ died on the cross for our sins, shedding His blood for our redemption (1 Cor. 15:3).
- E. Christ resurrected from among the dead on the third day (1 Cor. 15:4).
- F. Christ ascended to the right hand of God to be the Lord of all (Acts 1:9).
- G. When any person repents to God and believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, he is regenerated and becomes a member of the Body of Christ (Acts 20:21).
- H. Christ is coming again (1 Thes. 2:19).

II. The items of the faith, referring to the things we believe in, the contents of the New Testament as our faith (Acts 6:7; 1 Tim. 1:19; 3:9; 4:1; 5:8; 6:10, 21; 2 Tim. 3:8; 4:7; Titus 1:13), in which we believe for our common salvation; this faith, not any doctrine, has been delivered once for all to the saints, and for this faith we should earnestly contend (Jude 3; 1 Tim. 6:12).

Scripture Reading:

As you read through the following gospel messages in Acts, highlight items of the faith.

Acts 2:14a, 22-41

^{2:14}But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and spoke forth to them... ²²Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man shown by God to you to be approved by works of power and wonders and signs, which God did through Him in your midst, even as you yourselves know— ²³this man, delivered up by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you, through the hand of lawless men, nailed to a cross and killed; ²⁴whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says regarding Him, “I saw the Lord continually before me, because He is on my right hand, that I may not be shaken. ²⁶Therefore my heart was made glad and my tongue exulted; moreover, also my flesh will rest in hope, ²⁷because You will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor will You permit Your Holy One to see corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.” ²⁹Men, brothers, I can say to you plainly concerning the patriarch David that he both deceased and was buried, and his tomb is among us until this day. ³⁰Therefore, being a prophet and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him to seat One from the fruit of his loins upon his throne, ³¹He, seeing this beforehand, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was He abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God has raised up, of which we all are witnesses. ³³Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand ³⁵until I set Your enemies as a footstool for Your feet.” ³⁶Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.

³⁷And when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, What should we do, brothers? ³⁸And Peter said to them, Repent and each one of you be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For to you is the promise and to your children, and to all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God calls to Himself. ⁴⁰And with many other words he solemnly testified and exhorted them, saying, Be saved from this crooked generation. ⁴¹Those then who received his word were baptized, and there were added on that day about three thousand souls.

Acts 3:11-26

^{3:11}And while he was holding on to Peter and John, all the people ran together toward them at the portico called Solomon's, greatly amazed. ¹²And when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, Men of Israel, why are you marveling at this? Or why are you gazing at us, as though by our own power or godliness we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. ¹⁴But you denied the holy and righteous One and asked that a man who was a murderer be granted to you; ¹⁵and the Author of life you killed, whom God has raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. ¹⁶And upon faith in His name, His name has made this man strong, whom you behold and know; and the faith which is through Him has given him this wholeness of health before you all. ¹⁷And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as also your rulers did; ¹⁸But the things which God announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

¹⁹Repent therefore and turn, that your sins may be wiped away, ²⁰so that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that He may send the Christ, who has been previously appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must indeed receive until the times of the restoration of all things, of which God spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old. ²²Moses said, "A Prophet will the Lord your God raise up unto you from your brothers, like me; Him shall you hear in whatever things He speaks to you. ²³And it shall be that every soul who does not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people." ²⁴And also all the prophets, from Samuel and those in succession after him, as many as spoke, also announced these days. ²⁵You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God covenanted with your fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." ²⁶To you first, God, having raised up His Servant, has sent Him to bless you in turning each of you away from your wicked deeds.

Acts 4:8-12

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we today are being examined regarding a good deed done to a sick man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified and whom God has raised from the dead, in this name this man stands before you in good health. ¹¹This is the stone which was considered as nothing by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner. ¹²And there is salvation in no other, for neither is there another name under heaven given among men in which we must be saved.

Acts 5:29-32

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered and said, It is necessary to obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers has raised Jesus, whom you slew by hanging Him on a tree. ³¹This One God has exalted to His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

Questions for Fellowship:

1. In the table below, summarize what your group highlighted by filling in the verse references where you found the items of faith (note: you might not be able to find all 8 items in each gospel message).

Items of Faith	Acts 2:14-41	Acts 3:11-26	Acts 4:8-12	Acts 5:29-32
The Scripture				
Triune God				
Incarnation				
Christ's death				
His resurrection				
His ascension				
Repent to be saved				
The Lord's return				

2. Jude 3 says, "Beloved, while using all diligence to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you *and* exhort *you* to earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints." Why are these items so important that we should contend for them? Especially with regards to our salvation and Christian life?
3. Memorize the items of faith. Here's a song to help!
<https://soundcloud.com/hymnstream/we-believe-common-faith>

Common Faith Song - "We Believe"

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>G</p> <p>1. This common faith of mine,
 G7
 I'm gonna let it shine:
 C
 The Bible is God-breathed,
 G
 Second Timothy.</p> <p>God is one and three;
 B7 Em
 Triune God is He.
 G D7 G
 We believe, we believe, we believe!</p> | <p>2. He became a man,
 Jesus is His name.
 Christ died on the cross
 For all of our sins,
 According to the word,
 The tomb couldn't keep Him in.
 He arose, He arose, He arose!</p> <p>3. He was lifted up,
 Now He's on the throne.
 Repent and believe,
 Then you shall receive.
 The Lord is coming back—
 Coming back for us.
 We believe, we believe, common faith</p> |
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