

ESSENTIALS

I want you to understand what really matters.

Philippians 1:10

Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

Acts 16:26

The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household.

Acts 16:29 – 32

A Christian believes Jesus is God in the flesh.

"Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father!"

Jesus in John 14:9

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unflinching love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Jesus in John 1:1 & 14

In Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

Colossians 2:9

He is God, the One Who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise!

Romans 9:5

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

Philippians 2:5 – 6

A Christian believes Jesus died for our sins.

"No one can take My life from Me. I sacrifice it voluntarily."

Jesus in John 10:18

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.

Isaiah 53:5 – 6

God made Christ, Who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. *2 Corinthians 5:21*

A Christian believes Jesus rose from the dead.

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." *Jesus in John 2:19*

"The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of His enemies. He will be killed, but on the third day He will be raised from the dead."
Jesus in Matthew 17:22 – 23

"I know you are looking for Jesus, Who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen."
Matthew 28:5 – 6

A Christian believes Jesus saves us by His grace.

God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.
Ephesians 2:8 – 9

If your faith needs to be built up...

- **Admit your inadequacy.**

The wicked bluff their way through, but the virtuous think before they act.
Proverbs 21:29

- **Make a real effort to learn.**

Faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.
Romans 10:17

The Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.
Hebrews 4:12

- **Stop sins hindering belief.**

Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against Him.

Ephesians 4:17 – 18

“The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”

Jesus in Mark 1:15

- **Act on the faith you have.**

We hope that your faith will grow.

2 Corinthians 10:15

Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

James 2:26

- **Make an unchanging decision to believe.**

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11

He and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God. *Acts 16:33 – 34*

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301 N. 10th Street 618.242.4185 centralnow.com