
Words of Truth

To Whom Shall We Go?

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After miraculously feeding five thousand and afterward rebuking those that followed Him for food (John 6:1-27), Jesus taught some things that were hard to hear (John 6:28-59). We then read this: *“Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God”* (John 6:60-69).

Peter was not always wise when he spoke (i.e. Mark 8:31-33, Luke 22:31-34, and Galatians 2:11-17). However, in the context we opened this article with, Peter spake forth words that carry great meaning. Peter knew, though not fully (John 16:12-15), that Jesus was the only one that could be followed into eternal life.

Later, after Jesus died, Peter went on to defend our Lord and teach the very truth that Peter previously stated. Notice: *“And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand. And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:1-12). Do you share Peter’s conviction?

Do You Believe Jesus Is The Only Source Of Eternal Life?

We could surely list many Scriptures that teach Jesus is the source of eternal life (Matthew 19:16-30, Matthew 25:31-46, John 1:1-5, John 3:16, John 5:24, John 5:39-40, John 10:1-29, John 11:25-26, Romans 5:21, Romans 6:22-23, I Timothy 1:12-16, Titus 3:1-7, I John 1:1-3, I John 5:11-13, I John 5:20, Jude 1:21, etc.). The question is not about what the word of God states about the source of eternal life. There is no debate to be had on that. Before the beginning of the world God had chosen Jesus to bring salvation to the lost (II Timothy 1:8-10, Titus 1:1-3, and I Peter 1:18-20).

The question is about what you believe concerning Jesus being YOUR only source of eternal life. Are you convicted, sure in your faith, that Jesus is your only hope for salvation? When Jesus was concerned about the departure of the twelve, Peter's reassurance to Jesus was that he and they were "sure" that Jesus was the Son of the living God.

Peter was fully willing to state his conviction that Jesus had the words of eternal life. Yet, Peter just spoke words. Yes, they were true words. Yes, they stand to this day as a wonderful statement. However, Jesus had foretold His disciples that He would appear to them in Galilee after He had risen from the dead (Matthew 26:32). Yet, they didn't go there looking for Him until after the angel and Jesus directed them to Galilee (Matthew 28:1-10). Even after Jesus was risen from the dead and speaking to His disciples, some of them still doubted (Matthew 28:16-17).

Peter proves to us that people can make a true statement with full conviction, yet not really believe that statement. What happens when it is time to prove that you believe that Jesus is the only source of eternal life and there is nowhere else to turn but to Him? It is easy to quote Scriptures such as John 14:6. The question is, are they just words to you?

Do You Show Your Faith With Words Or Actions?

Faith, without works, is dead (James 2:14-26). Good words, without proper action and fruit to support such, are useless (Isaiah 29:13, Ezekiel 33:30-33, Mark 7:1-9, and Titus 1:16). You and I must examine ourselves to be sure we are more than just good talkers. When we face adversity that tests our faith, we have to step back and examine what our reaction to such tests reveals about our faith. When people of proper faith are tested that situation only leads them to greater endurance (Romans 5:1-4 and James 1:2-4). When people who are lacking, not properly grounded are tested; they fail (Luke 8:13-14). Remember, some people will believe in Jesus, but not enough to act fully upon that faith (John 12:41-42). Where do you stand?

Conclusion

There are and always will be many who fall away from the faith (I Timothy 4:1). Thus, I ask you, "Will ye also go away?" What is your response? I know that there will always be a remnant (Romans 11:1-5). I am firmly planted amongst that remnant. I will not be moved! How about you? Will you finish the course having fought the fight and keeping the faith (II Timothy 4:6-8)? Let's finish the work we have begun together and reunite in Heaven with our Savior!