

Matthew 16:13-20

Son of Man, Son of God

When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

He pressed them, “And how about you? Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter said, “You’re the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus came back, “God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn’t get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I’m going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

“And that’s not all. You will have complete and free access to God’s kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A “yes” on earth is “yes” in heaven. A “no” on earth is “no” in heaven.”

He swore the disciples to secrecy. He made them promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.

I BELIEVE !

Greg's Shed –
a lesson in
faith building.



The framework of my shed has 4 corner legs, cemented into the ground.

Extra legs giving more support.



The 4 corner legs of the framework of our foundations
on which we build our faith;

I BELIEVE

I TRUST

I PROMISE

I WILL

I BELIEVE

What do we believe?

What areas do we struggle?

Why is it important?

The Creed

- From the Latin 'Credo' – “ I believe and trust”.
- From this we get words like;

Credence - acceptance, belief, faith, trust, confidence, reliance, traction.

Credibility

Credit

- Nicene Creed 325AD
- Apostles Creed 341AD (based on the Roman Creed <200AD)

Threefold statement of belief

When we say the creed it is vital to reflect and remember;

- It is by the grace and mercy of God that we have come to faith. It is not through human cleverness or ingenuity.
- God has revealed himself through the Scriptures.
- God revealed himself most clearly through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ.
- God makes himself known personally to believers through the Holy Spirit.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

I believe in God – the Father

- Almighty
- Creator of Heaven & Earth
- The Judge

- Passionate father, King - a beautiful mix of majesty and love

I believe in Jesus Christ – the Son

- Born of a Virgin
- Both Man & God
- Crucified
- Died and was buried
- Rose again after 3 days

- Friend, companion, brother, leader, example, servant

I believe in the Holy Spirit

- Encourager
- Counsellor
- His presence within us

- He helps us to pray – a communication channel
- He helps us to 'know' – to feel assurance of God's love

What holds us back?

Fact or Fiction?

- Historical evidence
- 2,000+ years of growth in followers

Lack of personal experiences

- Ask God to reveal himself to you – it is all about relationship

Trust

- We like to be in control – surrender to his will

History

- Robin Hood
- King Arthur
- Caesar Augusta

- There is much more evidence that Jesus lived and was crucified.
- There is no evidence to prove that he didn't rise again – surely the Romans would have shown (if they could) that it wasn't true – to debunk the myth?

Choose!

Revelation

“You didn’t get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am.”

Relationship is key – God wants and offers us deep relationship.

In relationship he will reveal to us more of himself.

John 14:15-31 **Jesus promises the Holy Spirit**

‘If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

TRUST

Hebrews 11: 1

Faith

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Simply put, the biblical definition of faith is “trusting in something you cannot explicitly prove.”

At some point we have to take our hands off the wheel and let God drive!

Why is it important that we believe these things?

Fundamentals

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Vital in order to understand grace.

Because of Jesus, we are set free – he took our place, carried our sin and restored us back to God the Father.

Without GRACE, faith has no meaning or purpose

Ephesians 2: 1-10

He Tore Down the Wall

It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. **Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ.** He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it.

LIFE IS TOUGH!

We will have hardships, pain, sorrow, grief and disappointment!

When we are down – in what or who do we put our trust?

Who holds our hand?

Who carries us?

Psalm 23:- Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

In my dark times I fall back on the basics of my faith – not on religion or ceremony, but on those core foundations of what I believe.

Does God love me? – Did Jesus die for me?

Extra supports – give more strength

PRAYER – our essential relationship builder

THE BIBLE – our knowledge teacher

FRIENDS – share weaknesses and strengths

I BELIEVE

- A Choice – a confident attitude
- Revelation – Peter - upon this Rock I will build my Church
- Trust – surrender and pray
- Acknowledge - it is by GRACE we are saved