

## Have Faith in God

Sermon File Type	Sermon
Passages	Matthew 28:16-20;Mark 16:9-20;Luke 24:44-49;John 20:28-31;Romans 10:17;2 Peter 1:2-4;John 16:33;Mark 11:22-25;Exodus 3:16-17;Numbers 13:1-2;Numbers 13:25;Numbers 13:32-33;Numbers 14:2-3;Numbers 14:7-9;Numbers 14:10-11;Numbers 14:12;Numbers 14:20;John 20:10;Mark 14:27-28;John 20:19-23;John 21:1;Acts 1:4-5
Topics	The Body of Christ; Mature Christians
Tags	Christians; Christian Living; The Church
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Introduction – 7 min

This message is about living the Christian life. It isn't a snap your fingers message, this is about fulfilling God's plan and purpose for your life and fulfilling that work until the end. So, I am going to begin with a review of the commission Jesus gave at the end of the gospels.

Let's begin in

Matthew 28:16–20 (ASV 1901)

16But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, unto the mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17And when they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. 18And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. 19Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: 20teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

I want to point out here, vs 17, when they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted. This idea that Jesus died, and rose again to ascend to heaven and take His place at the right hand of the Father, that was a lot to take in. Their doubt didn't slow Jesus down in the least, He said, well, let's read vs 18, 19, 20 "All authority ..."

Now, let's go to Mark16:9-20. I am including this reference because it is accepted in the King James but some newer translations question this. So, I am not going to read the whole, section, just vs 17 and 20 which are, I believe, the way for the Church to operate.

Mark 16:9–20 (ASV 1901)

9Now when he was risen early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.

10She went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11And they, when they heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, disbelieved. 12And after these things he was manifested in another form unto two of them, as they walked, on their way into the country.

13And they went away and told it unto the rest: neither believed they them. 14And afterward he was manifested unto the eleven themselves as they sat at meat; and he upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them that had seen him after he was risen. 15And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned. **17And these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues;** 18they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. 19So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken unto them, was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. **20And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen.**

Next is Luke.

Luke 24:44–49 (ASV 1901)

44And he said unto them, These are my words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled, which are

written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me. 45Then opened he their mind, that they might understand the scriptures; 46and he said unto them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day; 47and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48Ye are witnesses of these things. 49And behold, I send forth the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city, until ye be clothed with power from on high.

And last, we go to John's gospel.

John 20:28–31 (ASV 1901)

28Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29Jesus saith unto him, Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

30Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: 31but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name.

Jesus finishes with the statement, "and that believing ye may have life in his name". This is the work Jesus came to do, to present the gospel of the Kingdom.

Let me give you a short example here.

I had a conversation with myself one day, basically saying, "I need to do something different with my life for my children." From that statement, I asked God to show me. And, I found my way to a Catholic Charismatic group that got me reading the Bible. And a few months later I was in an Evangelical Church on a Sunday morning, and I can't tell you what the Pastor said, but it broke through all of the hardness in my life and I was free. As I believed, I was freed. I share that to make this point,

### **The Propositional Statement**

It is important for people to hear God's word because need to:

"Have Faith in God" Romans 10:17 (ASV 1901) 17So belief cometh of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

### **The Transitional Sentence**

So, let' go to the Old Testament to see God's promise to Israel. This is our first main point.

## Believe

Main Body – 27 min

First Point – 9 min

### God's promise to us in the New Testament

2 Peter 1:2–4 (ASV 1901)

2Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue; 4whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Please note that this statement is to us, to the Church, to all believers, but then he says “that through these ye may become partakers”. We all have the promise, we individually become partakers. What 2 Peter 1:2-4 says is that there is an overcoming power that is given to us, at least available to us all. In another place, Jesus said,

John 16:33 (ASV 1901)

33These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye may have peace. In the world ye have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Jesus was speaking to “you”, all of his disciples, not just one person. There is no doubt that there will be difficult situations, but Gods promise is that He is for us.

As, I am laying the groundwork for where I want to go, I have one more familiar passage for you. Let's go to

Mark 11:22–25 (ASV 1901)

22And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou taken up and cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he saith cometh to pass; he shall have it. 24Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. 25And whensoever ye stand praying,

forgive, if ye have aught against any one; that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

This is a different message because "whosoever" is any one person and it goes on to say "he", any individual. This is spoken by Jesus to instruct each of us individually. Let's look at the words Jesus spoke.

1. Have faith in God
2. Whosoever shall say ...
3. Believe that what he saith cometh to pass
4. He shall have it

Notice that He doesn't say pray or ask here. He say, "whosoever shall say". What you say matters. And, these things we say are to the world around us.

Then He says, therefore

1. Whatsoever ye pray and ask for
2. Believe that you receive them
3. You shall have them
4. And, whensoever ye stand praying, forgive

These are things we say to God. These are the words of faith. These are the words that begin with the delegated authority God has given us and puts everything under the power of God to perform His word.

Again here, Jesus is talking about specific issues that are to be dealt with by you as an individual.

And we, in the Church have made a major point of this personal accountability with God. When I seek God, I will find Him. When I call on God, He will answer. And salvation is a personal choice that no one can make for you, will you accept Christ as savior and Lord?

But I want to move on from the individual work that God does in our lives and bring our focus to the fulfillment of what God has promised to His people. What he has promised to his people is what he has already said or is saying to us. And to do that we are going to look at two events, the first is from the Old Testament.

2 Peter 1:3 (ASV 1901)

“his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him”

Let's go on to the next main point.

## The Promise for Israel

Second Point – 9 min

I like to spend most of my time in the New Testament because we have a New Covenant through the work that Jesus Christ did when He gave His life on the cross and rose from the dead to take His place at the right hand of the father. But there are many examples in the Old Testament of the way God dealt with people, and even more important for this message, how people dealt with each other. So, let' go to the Old Testament to see how God began to bring his people into the land he promised them.

As we go back, remember that everything begins with,

“Have Faith in God”

One of God's promise to them in the OT was, I Will Give You A Land, well lets read what God said to Moses in:

Exodus 3:16–17 (ASV 1901)

16Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, hath appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: 17and I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

The place we want to get to though is in Number 13 and 14.

Numbers 13:1-2 (ASV 1901)

1 And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Send thou men, that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a prince among them.

At this point, you are probably familiar with the events that are recorded here. Moses did send these spies, and they did go. And this is where I want you to notice

Numbers 13:25 (ASV 1901)

25And they returned from spying out the land at the end of forty days.



The people had been wandering, and wondering about food and water since they left Egypt, and God had provided for them every step of the way. But, here is the problem, they are waiting idly by for another forty days. And now comes the report from the spies,

Numbers 13:32–33 (ASV 1901)

32And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had spied out unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature. 33And there we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak, who come of the Nephilim: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

And, I have heard great messages around these verses. Well, it isn't too difficult to guess how people reacted even if you aren't familiar with these events.

Numbers 14:2–3 (ASV 1901)

2And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would that we had died in this wilderness! 3And wherefore doth Jehovah bring us unto this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will be a prey: were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

But wait, there were two, Joshua and Caleb that were great men of faith and they stood up to say,

Numbers 14:7–9 (ASV 1901)

7and they spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceeding good land. 8If Jehovah delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it unto us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. 9Only rebel not against Jehovah, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is removed from over them, and Jehovah is with us: fear them not.

These two said, have faith in God! God has promised, and He will deliver. And when the people heard these words, they, well how would you expect them to respond? They might have said, Yea! If God is for us, who can be against us!

Sadly though, in

Numbers 14:10–11 (ASV 1901)

10But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of Jehovah appeared in the tent of meeting unto all the children of Israel.

11And Jehovah said unto Moses, How long will this people despise me? and how long will they not believe in me, for all the signs which I have wrought among them?

Before we leave this, it is important for you to see that God did not just dismiss this. And your concept of God may say, that he loves us so much that whatever we do, He will pardon. But God's response was,

Numbers 14:12 (ASV 1901)

12I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a nation greater and mightier than they.

God said he would make a nation out of Moses. This doesn't fit our modern view of who God is, but, do you remember the events around Noah? God rebuilt from these few to establish righteousness. And, here in the desert, the Israelites have slapped down everything God has done.

This is where we see the value of an intercessor. Moses asks God to pardon them, and to deliver Israel to their promised land. And God says in

Numbers 14:20 (ASV 1901)

And Jehovah said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

But, the pardon is for their children.

When God makes a promise, He will keep it. If we won't believe it, He will find someone that will. The nation did move forward. The nation did take the land and prospered. Those that rebelled against God's promise, died along the way.

I want to make this personal with an example: Did you ever have a big job in front of you and it feels overwhelming, or a conflict with someone you just can't avoid? And your Christian friend say, "Have faith in God" and you complain that they just don't get how hard it is. So, you pick up the phone to four different people and cry all night to them about how bad it is? Get up, Shake it off, let God show himself strong on your behalf!

This brings me to a New Testament example and my final main point,

## The Promise for the Church

Third Point – 9 min

We read at the end of the gospels that we are to go into all the world and make disciples. And, we read Jesus words that we would have tribulation. So, how is it supposed to work?

Well, like it works throughout the bible, we are to

“Have faith in God”

But, let’s go back to the gospel of John and look at how the disciples responded to the news of Jesus resurrection.

John 20:10 (ASV 1901)

10So the disciples went away again unto their own home.

But, Jesus had told them in

Mark 14:27–28 (ASV 1995)

27And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered abroad.

28Howbeit, after I am raised up, I will go before you into Galilee.

Jesus told the disciples to go to Galilee.

And as we read through the gospel accounts, we see Peter in his home, two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and who knows where Thomas was. But it is clear, none of them were on their way to Galilee. Instead, we see Jesus going around gathering the sheep, his disciples, to get them together in one place. And this is the job for the Pastor or Christian leader. Encourage, explain, bring together, Just keep gathering!

That first night, the disciples closed up in a room for fear, and Jesus appeared

John 20:19-23 (ASV 1995) When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20 And when he had said this, he showed unto them his hands and his side. The disciples therefore were

glad, when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus therefore said to them again, Peace be unto you: as the Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit: 23 whose soever sins ye forgive, they are forgiven unto them; whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

And after all of this, Peter said, I'm going fishing, and they followed him. Actually, this was much like the children of Israel wanting to go back to Egypt because fishing had been Peter's profession. This was his comfort zone.

John 21:1 (ASV 1995) After these things Jesus manifested himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and he manifested himself on this wise. 2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also come with thee. They went forth, and entered into the boat; and that night they took nothing.

And, the final command through his earthly ministry with his disciples is in

Acts 1:4–5 (ASV 1901)

4and, being assembled together with them, he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, said he, ye heard from me: 5for John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days hence.

Jesus wanted them together as a group, not scattered here and there. There is a promise that Christ is coming for a glorious Church.

And in Acts we see thousands added to the Church. We see Peter walking down the street and people are healed by his shadow. What happened to them? Certainly, it was the baptism in the Holy Ghost but I think also, it was their coming together to build the Church, the body of believers in Jerusalem and outward from there.

- They went to the temple at the hour of prayer and the lame man was healed
- People sold land and gave it to the Church
- The Church ministered to the widows, it wasn't happening in the temple.

## Conclusion

Conclusion – 6 min

Our main text:

2 Peter 1:2–4 (ASV 1901)

2Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue; 4whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Now let me briefly re-state the main points:

1. Believe – individually, have faith in God
2. The Promise for Israel – collectively believe Gods plan is progressing
3. The Promise for the Church – together, do the work of the ministry

God already said many things to us. And, we could easily fill our lives simply loving people and doing good works. There is though, a higher purpose, a closer walk where God is speaking to us as we go. And it is our action to:

“Have Faith in God”

That activates God’s will. I have heard many people say that, no matter what is happening, God is in control. And, I agree, God is all powerful, yet, He has chosen to work through us in the earth. Let’s look beyond our individual faith, to see what God has said He will do with the Church.

## Prayer of Salvation

Pray: If you have been listening and have never accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life, simply say this prayer with me.

"Dear God,  
I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness.  
I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died  
for my sin and that you raised Him to life.  
I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord,  
from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will.  
I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

If you prayed with me, I want to seal that with a short prayer for you.

"Father,  
I thank you for these that have accepted Christ today. Lead them by your  
Holy Spirit to a local Church where they can learn more about you and  
your plan for their life, In Jesus name, Amen

### Commission Prayer for Christians

Pray: For those of you that are Christians, we have a commission to preach this gospel of the kingdom. Go and read God's promises and make them your own. And, pray with me now.

"Father,  
I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Father, I know it is your desire that all would be saved and come to know the truth.  
I commit myself to this work of ministry and ask you to order my steps and prepare people by drawing them in.  
Prepare moments when I can share the work and love of Jesus Christ with others.  
I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

For those of you that prayed with me, would you please go to <http://tellone.org> and add a prayer request so that we can connect with you and continue to pray for the fulfillment of God's plan in your life.

"Preparation time is never wasted time." Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin

"Success is always the result of following the leading of the Holy Spirit." Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin



## End Notes

Thank you for this time on <http://omegamanradio.com> and thanks to our friend Rev. Joseph Cohen

- Eric and Noemi Ross
- The Master's Hand Christian Fellowship – <http://the-mastershand.org>
- Prayer Line – 712-432-6100 Code: 35051381 6:00-7:00 am Eastern Time
- <http://tellone.org>
- <http://prayny.org>
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Rev Joseph Cohen – <http://newhopeinthelord.com>