

**DIRECTION 11**  
**(THE NECESSITY OF PROPER AND PROMPT**  
**BELIEF FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST)**

**SUMMARY:** Believe in Christ without delay! Then, continue to build up your faith. When you do this, you will build your relationship with Christ more and more. You will also be empowered to live a holy life.  
p. 145

**INTRODUCTION:**

**STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK:** "Thus far (*Directions 1-10*) I have been telling you about the only effective way you can live a holy life. For the rest of the time (*Directions 11-14*), I want to tell you how to put these principles to work in your life." p. 145

Faith in Christ must be the basis for living a holy life. Faith is the rock bottom foundation for all your obedience to God. p. 145

Faith is the work of works because all other works proceed from faith.  
p. 145

**PROPOSITION:** 4 MAIN TRUTHS IN REGARDS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER AND PROMPT BELIEF IN CHRIST, PP. 145-166:

**LESSON:**

- I. THE FIRST MAIN THING I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU IN THIS DIRECTION IS: TO MOTIVATE YOU TO BELIEVE IN CHRIST, AND TO GUIDE YOU IN DOING SO. PP. 145-151
  - A. FIRST, DILIGENTLY LABOR TO BELIEVE IN CHRIST. PP. 145-147
  - B. BELIEVING IN CHRIST REQUIRES DILIGENT CONCENTRATION AND EFFORT ON OUR PART (CF. HEB. 4:11; 6:11-12). PP. 147-148
  - C. EVEN THOUGH YOU CANNOT HAVE FAITH WITHOUT THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR HEART, YOU MUST STILL STRIVE TO BELIEVE IN CHRIST. PP. 148-149
  - D. YOU ARE COMMANDED TO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL, EVEN BEFORE YOU KNOW WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE ONE OF GOD'S ELECT PEOPLE. P. 149-151
- II. THE SECOND MAIN THING I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU IS THIS: YOU MUST BELIEVE THE GOSPEL IN THE RIGHT WAY. PP. 151-161
  - A. FALSE FAITH: THE WRONG WAY TO BELIEVE, PP. 151-152

1. SIMON THE MAGICIAN (ACTS 8:13, 23)
2. THE JEWS (JOHN 2:23; 12:42)
3. JAMES (JAMES 2:14, 19)

B. TRUE FAITH: THE RIGHT WAY TO BELIEVE, PP. 152-161

(NOTE: TRUE SAVING FAITH HAS TWO ASPECTS: BELIEVING THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL AND BELIEVING IN CHRIST WHO IS FREELY PROMISED TO YOU IN THE GOSPEL. P. 152;

THE FOLLOWING 6 TRUTHS MARSHALL GIVES PERTAIN TO THE FIRST ASPECT OF SAVING FAITH AND TEACH YOU HOW TO RIGHTLY BELIEVE THE GOSPEL;

THESE 6 TRUTHS WILL HELP YOU MAKE SURE THAT YOU ALWAYS HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL.)

1. THE FIRST PRINCIPAL ASPECT OF FAITH: BELIEVE THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL, PP. 152-159
  - a. YOU MUST BELIEVE HOW BAD YOU REALLY ARE APART FROM CHRIST. PP. 153-154
  - b. BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO WAY TO BE SAVED IN A PARTIAL WAY. P. 153
  - c. MAKE SURE YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COMPLETELY SUFFICIENT TO SAVE YOU. PP. 153-155
  - d. MAKE SURE YOU BELIEVE THAT THE GENERAL PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL APPLIES PERSONALLY TO YOU WHEN YOU BELIEVE IT. P. 155-156

3 REASONS PEOPLE DO NOT BELIEVE THE PROMISES OF THE GOSPEL ARE FOR THEM:

- SOME DO NOT COME BECAUSE THEY THINK IT IS VAIN FOR THEM, AS FILTHY AS THEY ARE, TO TRUST IN CHRIST FOR SALVATION. P. 155
- SOME PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE WORSE THAN ANYONE ELSE. P. 155-156
- SOME PEOPLE THINK THEY HAVE DELAYED TOO LONG TO BELIEVE IN CHRIST. P. 156

- e. CONFIDENTLY BELIEVE THAT IT IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU TO BELIEVE IN CHRIST, AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH HIM. P. 156
  - f. WHEN YOU BELIEVE, MAKE SURE YOU SEE THE INCOMPARABLE GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS SALVATION ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE. P. 159
2. THE SECOND PRINCIPAL ASPECT OF FAITH: BELIEVING IN CHRIST WHO IS FREELY PROMISED TO YOU IN THE GOSPEL, PP. 159-161

NOTE: THIS SECOND PRINCIPAL ASPECT OF FAITH HAS TO DO WITH HOW ONE ACTUALLY RECEIVES CHRIST AND ALL HIS SAVING BENEFITS.

5 INSIGHTS TO ENSURE THAT YOU BELIEVE IN CHRIST THE RIGHT WAY:

- a. THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLES YOU TO RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL. P. 159
- b. ONCE YOU ACCEPT THAT THE GOSPEL IS TRUE, YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT CHRIST IS ALONE SUFFICIENT AND ALL SUFFICIENT FOR YOUR JOY AND FOR YOUR SALVATION. P. 85, 160
- c. YOU MUST RECEIVE CHRIST AS A COMPLETELY FREE GIFT- A GIFT THAT IS GIVEN TO THE WORST OF SINNERS. P. 86, 160
- d. IN ADDITION TO COMING TO CHRIST FOR FORGIVENESS, YOU MUST ALSO COME TO CHRIST FOR A NEW HOLY HEART AND LIFE. P. 86, 160
- e. ENDEAVOR TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD WITH FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH, TRUSTING CONFIDENTLY IN CHRIST FOR YOUR SALVATION BASED UPON HIS PROMISE, HEB. 10:22; ROM. 9:33. P. 86, 161

III. THE THIRD MAIN THING I WANT TO TELL YOU IS THIS: AVOID ANY DELAY IN BELIEVING IN CHRIST. PP. 86-88, 161-164

- A. WHY YOU MUST NOT WAIT, P. 161
- B. EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE OF THOSE WHO DO NOT WAIT, P. 161

- C. 3 KINDS OF PEOPLE WHO DELAY BELIEVING:
1. THE MOST SENSUAL PEOPLE GIVE IN TO HIS LIES, AND THEY DECIDE TO WAIT TO BELIEVE IN CHRIST. P. 87, 162
  2. OTHERS DELAY BECAUSE THEY HAVE INTELLECTUAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GOSPEL. P. 87, 162
  3. OTHERS DELAY BECAUSE THEY RELY AND TRUST IN THEIR PERFORMANCE OF RELIGIOUS RITUALS RATHER THAN IN CHRIST. P. 87, 162

- B. 4 REASONS WHY PEOPLE WAIT TO BELIEVE IN CHRIST:
1. DO THEY NEED MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOSPEL? P. 87, 163
  2. ARE YOU WAITING FOR THE APPOINTED TIME OF YOUR CONVERSION? P. 87, 163
  3. ARE YOU WAITING TO FEEL THE LOVE OF GOD IN YOUR SOUL? P. 88, 163-164
  4. ARE YOU WAITING TO BE A BETTER PERSON, SO YOU WILL BE FULLY PREPARED TO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL? P. 88, 164

IV. THE FOURTH MAIN THING I WANT TO TELL YOU IS THIS: MAKE SURE YOU CONTINUE AND INCREASE IN YOUR MOST HOLY FAITH. pp. 164-166

© John Fonville

Permissions: Permission is happily granted to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do not revise the wording in any way and do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. For web posting, a link to this document on Paramount's website is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be approved by John Fonville.

Please include the following statement on any distributed copy: By John Fonville. © Paramount Church Website: [www.paramountchurch.net](http://www.paramountchurch.net)