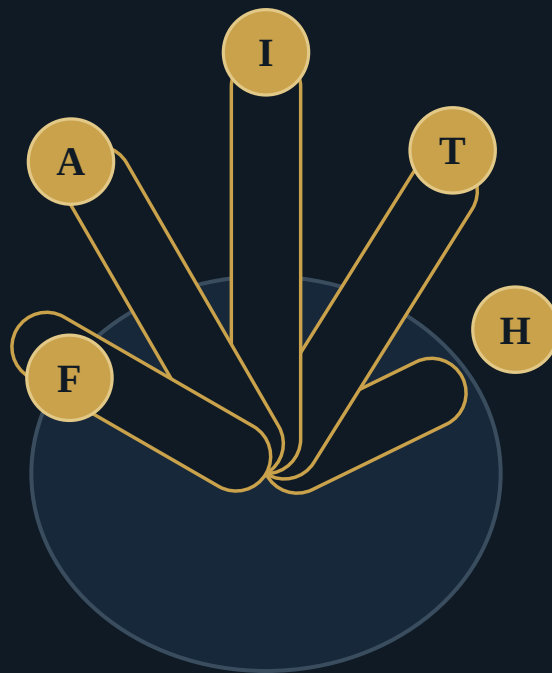


THE GOSPEL VAULT

The Hand: F.A.I.T.H.

A Five-Day Devotional for a New Believer



Foundation · Ask · Input · Together
with the Holy Spirit in the palm, holding it all together.

Translation: New American Standard Bible (NASB)
Compiled and edited by Bruce R. Crow

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We are saved by faith alone in Christ alone.

John 3:16; John 6:39-40, 47; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 8:38-39; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 5:11-13 (NASB)

Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. **Jn 6:39-40** This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day. **Jn 6:47** Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. **Eph 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **Rom 8:38-39** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **2 Cor 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **1 Jn 5:11-13** And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son... These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

We are saved by faith alone in Christ alone.

Jesus doesn't leave the offer vague. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16). He repeats it in John 6: everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day (John 6:40) — and again, plainly stated, he who believes has eternal life (John 6:47). Believing God's promise, that is faith alone in Christ alone, is the one and only condition for receiving eternal life.

Faith at its very essence is “trusting God at His word.” Since it is His promise, it is not based on something we do in order to earn, as the Bible says “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is a gift and is the very foundation of God's promise to the one believing in Jesus!

Here's why that foundation is pure gift: “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). As a gift, Christ took what was yours — sin — and in exchange freely gave you what was His — His own perfect righteousness. This is a finished transaction He accomplished once for all. Faith simply receives what God's promise has freely given and now provides.

Because of what Jesus finished on the Cross — He died for your sins and rose on the third day — the promise of eternal life is yours. By faith you now stand forgiven of every sin: past, present, and future. All

of it rests on His finished work on the Cross for you. And once you're standing there, nothing moves you off it. The Apostle Paul lists everything that might try — death, life, angels, powers, height, depth — and says none of it will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39). John adds the closing word: so that you may **know** that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13). Not maybe — **know**.

For Reflection

1. Which promise do you need to hear again today: that Jesus loses none of His own (John 6:39), or that nothing can separate you from His love (Romans 8:38-39)?
2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says Christ took your sin and gave you His righteousness — what does that exchange mean for how you see yourself today?

Faith alone in Christ alone. That's your foundation — settled, finished, yours.

Prayer matters.

Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NASB)

Phil 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **1 Thess 5:16-18** Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Prayer matters — talk to God about everything.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6). Notice the word everything — not just the big, spiritual-sounding requests. Whatever's actually on your mind qualifies.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). The promise isn't that the problem disappears the moment you pray. It's that peace stands guard over you in the middle of it, even before the circumstances change.

Paul takes it further: Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Prayer isn't a single event you schedule — it's meant to run underneath your whole day, a constant turning toward God instead of away from Him.

For Reflection

1. What's one specific thing you've been carrying that you haven't actually said out loud to God yet?
2. What would it look like to “pray without ceasing” in the middle of an ordinary day?

Prayer matters. You don't need the right words — just ask.

See and know God's promises.

Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)

Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **2 Tim 3:16-17** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. **Heb 4:12** For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit... and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

See and know God's promises in His Word.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105). Notice the psalmist doesn't ask for a floodlight over the whole horizon — just a lamp for the next step. Scripture usually gives you what you need to see right now, not the whole plan at once.

Paul tells Timothy Scripture is more than a lamp — it's a whole toolkit. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). It's not decoration for your shelf; it's the tool that equips you for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17).

Hebrews goes further still: the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit... and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). This isn't information to file away. It reaches places you can't reach on your own.

That's what it means to see and know God's promises — not just read words on a page, but let them show you who God is and who you're becoming.

For Reflection

1. Where in your life right now do you most need light for the next step, not the whole path?
2. What's one small habit that could make opening Scripture something you do daily, not occasionally?

Feed on it today. Even a few verses let you see and know.

This is the very essence of fellowship.

Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:24-25 (NASB)

Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **Heb 10:24-25** Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

This is the very essence of fellowship.

The very first believers didn't figure out the Christian life solo. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42). That's the essence of fellowship — a shared rhythm of teaching, relationship, meals, and prayer, not a private project.

That's why Hebrews doesn't treat gathering as optional: let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together... but encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:24-25). You need other people's encouragement, and they need yours, more than either of you might admit.

Fellowship isn't attending more events. It's letting a handful of people actually know how you're doing, and choosing to know them back — the same devotion the first believers practiced.

For Reflection

1. Who is one person or small group you could reach out to this week, instead of processing this alone?
2. What's held you back so far from getting connected — busyness, fear, or something else?

Don't walk alone. Stay connected — this is fellowship.

We are now Gospel ambassadors for Jesus.

Acts 1:8 (NASB)

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

What is an ambassador? It is someone who speaks for another, not for themselves. The assignment begins right where you already are, with the people closest to you — your “Jerusalem” — before it ever reaches farther. You don't need to have everything figured out theologically to represent Him well. An ambassador doesn't write the message; he simply carries it faithfully. You just need to be willing to say what's true: something changed, and Jesus is why. That's the whole of it — not a performance, just a witness. You watched it happen in your own life. Now you get to tell someone else.

And you are not left alone to do this.

Jesus promised, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever” (John 14:16). The same Spirit who lives in you will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that Jesus said (John 14:26). When you don't even know how to pray, He intercedes for you with groanings too deep for words (Romans 8:26). The power to share what Jesus has done was never yours to manufacture. It flows from the Spirit who dwells in you — out to every part of your life, including the one that tells your story.

For Reflection

1. Who is one person close to you — your “Jerusalem” — you could share your story with this week?
2. Where have you been trying to live or speak as an ambassador in your own strength instead of leaning on the Spirit's help?
3. What's one thing you need the Spirit to teach, remind, or pray for you right now?

You'll receive power for this. The Helper lives in you forever. Lean on Him — not just yourself.

Keep Going

This is just the start. Find more devotionals, reflections, and resources at **thegospelvault.com**.

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