



The Foundation of Christianity

Acts 1-5

About *Resurrection Hope: Build on the Right Foundation*

If you were raised on a version of Christianity with the Bible as your foundation to faith, only to have it undermined by academia or the realities of life, maybe it's time to change your mind about Jesus. "If you gave up your faith because of something in the Bible, maybe you gave up unnecessarily," said Martin Hawley, senior pastor. "Maybe it's time to seriously consider the version of Christianity that relies on a better foundation." This series points to a fresh hope based on a solid, unshakeable foundation for your faith.

Bottom Line

The reason for our faith in Jesus—and thus our hope—is the resurrection. We must reclaim this for the sake of the generation that left and the next generation as well.

Introduction

If you gave up on Christianity because of something in the Bible or something about the Bible, you may have given up unnecessarily. Jesus' most devout followers never read one because it didn't exist.

Struggle

For most Christians, the Bible is the foundation of their faith. This comes from the misapplication of an important Reformation concept: *Sola scriptura*.

As the Bible goes, so goes our faith. This may not seem like a problem for you, a mature believer, but for new impressionable believers, as atheists attack the credibility and morality of the Old Testament, faith comes tumbling down.

So, for the next three weeks, we'll look at what served as the foundation of faith for the earliest Christians, and it wasn't the Bible because the Bible hadn't been written yet.

However, these early Christians had an enduring, defensible, unassailable version of faith.

Truth

We'll look at various passages from Acts 1-5.

Acts 1:22, “For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

Acts 2:24, “But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.”

Acts 3:15, “You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.”

Acts 4:10, “It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.”

Acts 5:30, “The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree... We are witnesses of these things.”

Application

Peter, the Apostles, and the rest of the first-century believers did not trust and follow Jesus because of something they read. They became disciples of Jesus because of something they saw and witnessed firsthand, the resurrection of the crucified Jesus.

Acts: 2:19, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

Conclusion

The Christian faith isn't about what Jesus said before he died. It's about what happened after he died: He rose from the dead!

Next Steps

- Memorize Acts 1:22
- Place Your Faith in the Resurrection of Jesus.
- Build Your Faith on the Resurrection of Jesus.
- Join Us Next Week for *In with the New. Out with the Old.*
Here, we'll see the place religion has in faith.