**Upon This Rock**

**The Seven Pillars of Faith**

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# **SERMON QUESTIONS**

1. What do they need to know?
2. We must know what we believe and why we believe it.
3. Why do they need to know it?
4. Our faith is predicated on doctrine and right belief systems
5. Doctrines are foundational
6. They ground us in Christ.

# **CENTRAL TRUTH**

**The Seven Pillars of Faith**

It is not enough to say that we have faith. We must ask ourselves: What do we believe in and why do we believe what we believe? The Bible speaks of the fundamentals or the doctrines of faith. In other words, the pillars, or the bedrock of our blessed hope in Christ Jesus. These beliefs ground us, establish us, and allow us to walk in the ways of God. All the ways of God are the truth!

# **MAIN PASSAGES**

**Revelation 3:12**

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

**Proverbs 9:1**

Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; …

**1Timothy 3:15**

…but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Pillars were often used in biblical times to uphold incredible weight and structures.

Let us begin by taking a little bit of a journey and recap where we have come from in our series, *“Upon This Rock “.*

**Vision**

Why do we require vision?

*Answer*: Without vision, God says that we perish. We need to:

* Know where we are going
* Know the future
* Have a plan that will take us into the promises and destiny of God for our lives.

**Core Values**

Why do we require core values?

*Answer*: That we may know how to conduct ourselves so that we might have the right:

* Values
* Behaviors
* Motivators

Ultimately, God should be the source of our core values and beliefs.

***At the end of the day, you need to know what you believe and why you believe it.***

# **MAIN POINTS**

**The Seven Pillars**

**What We Believe In & Why We Believe What We Believe**

1. **The Love of God (Mark 12:29-31)**

* God is love! This means that this is His nature, His attributes, everything He does comes from His heart of love.
* He sent Jesus to save humanity because He loves the world.
* “Love; the very essence and being of God”
* The love of God is divine – agape

Paul describes what agape love is:

**1Corinthians 13:4-8**

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

We are commanded as followers of Christ to love Him and others as ourselves, on these two commandments hang the prophets and the law.

1. **The Holy Bible**

**2Timothy 3:15-17**

15…and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**The Scripture Inspired**

The Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God. In them we find the final authority for all Christian faith and practice. (2Timothy 3:15-17)

* The Bible, the Word of God, the will of God, the Holy Scriptures, we could go on and on in describing what God has written in His book. The Bible is an accumulation of 66 books written over approximately 5000 years. It is broken into two sections: The Old Testament which deals with the nation of Israel and the New Testament which deals with the Church. However, throughout all these pages, Christ is revealed—He is found in every book.
* “The inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God”
  + - 1. God’s revelation
      2. God’s manual for life. It is:
         1. The wisdom of God
         2. Pure morality.
      3. Jesus the logos (written Word)
         1. Jesus with the Father
         2. Jesus in the Old Testament
         3. Jesus incarnate
         4. Jesus the resurrected Christ
         5. Jesus the returning King.
      4. The Bible is the highest form of authority we have
      5. Illustration: we have partnered with Jennifer Lewin to hand out Bibles.

1. **Prayer**

**Colossians 4:2-3**

**2**Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; **3**meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+4%3A2-3&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29546a)]mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, …

* 1. Prayer is fundamental to our faith in our relationship with God. It can be argued, but without prayer and personal devotion you cannot build an intimate relationship with Father God. It is through this two-way dialogue that we minister and are ministered to by the Spirit of God. Jesus taught us to pray to the Father in His name.
  2. Prayer is:
* Our love language to God
* Therapeutic
* Powerful
* Communication with heaven.

Through prayer we:

* Place our requests and petitions
* Express our worship, affection, and our love for God
* Intercede for others
* Are involved in spiritual warfare
* Angels are released
* People are healed.

1. **The Cross of Christ**

**1Corinthians 1:18-19**

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND BRING TO NOTHING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRUDENT."

* 1. Death by crucifixion was the ultimate humility in the day of Christ. It was the Romans’ preferred way of execution—it was public, it was brutal, and it was completely humiliating.
  2. “The “finished redemptive work of God for humanity”
* The cross, in and of itself, is not powerful—it is the One who was nailed to it and died on it that matters. The cross Christ was placed on was no different than any other cross that the Romans were using. In fact, multiple people have been placed on that very cross before Jesus and even after.
* Nothing in that wood was supernatural or even anointed. It would have been used again most likely. The symbol itself, although an identity, has no power in it whatsoever.

1. **Worship**

**John 4:24**

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

* 1. From Genesis to Revelation, we are commanded to worship the awesome God. This is not a suggestion or even an option—it is a requirement of being human. That means that we come to God in full humility understanding that He has given us life, He is the Creator, He is worthy, and we are His subjects. Worship is more than a song or something we do on a Sunday morning—it is life itself; it is the way that we conduct ourselves, it is the way that we behave, it means that everything we do should glorify God in heaven.
* “Let all things be done for the praise, glory and fame of His great name”
* Jesus re-defined worship in the New Testament in John chapter 4. It is discourse with the woman at the well. Jesus provided the essence of New Testament worship that it is “spirit” and “truth”.
  + - 1. **SPIRIT** – this means that it is living and life-giving, the source of it is not ritual or form but rather Holy Spirit
      2. **TRUTH** – this means that we worship the true and living God and follow His principles of adoration, praise, love, and respect for Him.
      3. It is not to be confined to location, ritual, or a group of people.

1. **The Church**

**Ephesians 1:22-23**

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**Colossians 1:17-19**

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, …

**The Church - The Body of Christ**

The true Church is the composition of all those who have been born-again. Through the new birth, believers are united together as the Body of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22-23).

* 1. The church is both universal and local. It is the body of Christ made up of many members from every tongue and tribe on the face of the earth. It is the family of God, and it is comprised of those who have been “called out” and are born-again by the Holy Spirit. We are placed in the body of Christ and specifically joined in by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is more than just a building or even a service that we attend, it is a supernatural body made up of many members where Christ is the head. Furthermore, the Church is the Gate of Heaven.
  2. “The community of the saints, united in vision, faith and purpose”
* The Ekklesia – the “called out ones”
* This is part of the vision of APC—to have a community of believers from all backgrounds and nationalities.
  1. Paul called the Church the Pillar of Truth—he communicated to the decision that God would manifest His many-sided wisdom through the Church.
  2. In the New Testament, God has used the church to display the culture of the Kingdom.

1. **The Great Commission**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

* 1. These are the commands of Christ. His final marching orders to the Church. It is the mandate and assignment that needs to be completed until He returns.
  2. The Gospel is revolutionary and it:
* Reprograms people to their original design as described in the Book of Genesis—God gave them dominion
* Sets people free in their mindset
* Communicates that we are made in the image and likeness of God.
  1. “The heartbeat of the Father is people; Christ died for the souls of mankind”.

**ALL PEOPLE’S CHURCH - STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The Statement of Faith is designed to encapsulate the beliefs of the ministry. They are based on biblical doctrine.

1. **One True God**

God has revealed Himself as the Creator of all things and the Redeemer of mankind. He is manifested as the Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 43:11, Matthew 28:19)

1. **The Scripture Inspired**

The Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God. In them we find the final authority for all Christian faith and practice. (2Timothy 3:15-17)

1. **Deity of Jesus Christ**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who shares in the deity of God. He is also truly man who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for sin and arose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is now at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest and Advocate. (Matthew 1:23)

1. **Original Sin and Fall of Man**

Man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost (Genesis 1-3). Only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and by His resurrection can man have grounds for justification and salvation. This salvation and spiritual life are obtained by regeneration through the work of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 3:23-26)

1. **Salvation by Faith**

Man’s salvation and redemption (a free gift of grace from God) can only be obtained by exercising faith, not by works, and by the finished redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

1. **The New Man in Christ**

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (creation) in the inward man. We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus. We are partakers of His divine nature. (2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:10, and 2 Peter 1:4)

1. **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

The ministry and baptism of the Holy Spirit are to glorify Jesus Christ and to indwell, guide, and empower believers for life and service. This baptism brings the gifts or enablement’s of the Holy Spirit and their uses to the forefront of the ministry of the body of Christ. This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth and is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues a

1. **Divine Healing**

The anointing work of Jesus Christ provides not only salvation but healing and prosperity for all believers. (Matthew 8:16-17)

1. **The Church - The Body of Christ**

The true Church is the composition of all those who have been born again. Through the new birth, believers are united together as the Body of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church. (Ephesians 1:22-23)

1. **Marriage**

As a matter of belief, doctrine and religious practice, All People’s Churchreserves the term “marriage” for the covenant relationship between one man (husband) and one woman (wife) to the exclusion of all others. This covenant relationship represents the union between Christ and His Body (the church). Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark10:8; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Hebrews 13:4

1. **Water Baptism**

All who believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and have been born again are commanded to be immersed in water as a declaration that they identify with the death of Christ and have been raised with Him in newness of life. (Mark 16:16)

1. **The Lord’s Supper**

A symbolic expression of our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ as well as a memorial of His suffering, death, and prophecy of His Second Coming. (1 Corinthians 11:23-31)

1. **The Blessed Hope**

The blessed hope of the Church is the resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation (catching away to heaven) together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord. (1Thessalonians 4:16-17, Romans 11:27, Titus 2:13)

1. **The Final Judgment**

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever’s name is not found written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death. (Matthew 25:46, Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8)

# **QUOTES**

*“If it wasn't for the written Word, we would melt down God to our experiences.”*

*“God would rather you not sing and just obey Him.”*

*“God's book is a number one best seller.”*

*“Everything the Bible talks about, it's a subject matter expert in.”*

*“Can you talk? Talk to God. Can you listen? Listen to God. That's what prayer is.”*

*“When we do the will of God, we are worshipping God.”*

*“The devil loves worshippers; he just wants you to worship the wrong things.”*

*“The great commission is not the great suggestion.”*

*“The message of the cross, not the actual cross, is the power of God.”*

# **QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION**

1. Provide other terms to describe the Bible that are used in the Bible itself.
2. Explain how the church is the Pillar of Truth and The Gate of Heaven.
3. Why would Jesus provide one of the greatest revelations to the woman at the well? What is He trying to display to us by communicating His identity and what true worship really is to this individual?
4. List 10 promises that are associated with the cross of Christ.
5. Provide some possible explanations as to why the church, as a whole, has abandoned The Great Commission found in the Gospel of Matthew.
6. List the various types of prayer that are mentioned in the New Testament and describe each one briefly.
7. Provide and define other names given to the Church in the New Testament.