

Di223 We Believe

Lesson Di223-30 Continuing to Live Your Faith

Demas was a young man who was a blessing to the apostle Paul during Paul's time in a Roman prison. Paul was awaiting his appeal before Caesar. Paul writes, "Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings" (Col 4:14). Paul again mentions Demas as a fellow worker in his letter to Philemon. However, he says in a later letter to Timothy, "Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me" (2Tim 4:10-11). As we review our *Statements of Faith*, remember that it is not enough to learn about your beliefs. You must also live out your faith in your daily life. The times in which Demas and the Paul lived were times of danger and proved to exact a high cost for one's faith. The apostle Paul remained faithful even to a martyr's death. Demas left his faith, however, and chose to follow a worldly lifestyle. You must make the choice to follow Jesus with your whole heart.

Communion: Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is a memorial to Jesus. It helps us remember what Jesus had to suffer for our sins on the Cross. It also gives us a chance to examine our own hearts and minds to see if we need to strengthen our spiritual lives. When we accept Christ as Savior, we begin a new life because of his sacrifice for our sins. As believers, we can take part in Communion. We eat the bread that represents Christ's body broken for us. We drink the cup that represents Christ's blood shed for us. We are remembering Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. We look forward to celebrating Communion with Jesus in heaven at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Statement of Faith #7: We believe the Lord's Supper is a remembrance of Christ's suffering and death, and a prophecy of his Second Coming. Christ commanded of all believers to take Communion until he comes.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit gives us power and boldness to be witnesses to others about Jesus, telling them the plan of salvation. The baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, is a sign to everyone. It says that we have yielded our lives to the Holy Spirit for God's use. We should seek Jesus, the baptizer, and ask him to fill us with the Spirit. God the Holy Spirit can help us be effective witnesses for him. If we allow the Holy Spirit to fill and control our lives, we will have power to witness wherever we are.

Statement of Faith #8: We believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to empower a believer to witness and to live an overcoming Christian life.

Progressive Sanctification: After salvation, the believer should grow spiritually. God's intention for each believer is a continuing growth in the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit. Each day a Christian should become more like Christ. Sanctification means to be separated from sin and set apart for God's use. Sanctification begins at salvation. Growth toward becoming more like Jesus continues as long as we live. We will never become perfect, but as we read the Bible, pray every day, attend church, and witness, we grow spiritually stronger.

Statement of Faith #9: We believe sanctification is working with the Holy Spirit to separate ourselves from sin and to dedicate ourselves to God.

The Church and Its Purpose: The Church is the body of Christ. At salvation believers become part of the body of Christ. Like our physical bodies, the Church body is a living organism. It is full of people who have accepted Christ as Savior and do their part to make the Body operate as it should. God's house is a place where we meet with other members of the Body to worship together. As the church, believers help bring unsaved people to Christ and receive strength and encouragement in their walk with God. As part of the Body, members show God's love for those in need.

Statement of Faith #10: We believe the Church is the body of Christ with a divinely called ministry. Its purpose is to evangelize the world, worship God, encourage believers to grow in the likeness of Christ, and show God's love and compassion to the world.

Divine Healing: Healing is God's miraculous intervention in the lives of hurting people. Physical healing is based on the atoning work of Christ on the Cross. We are instructed to pray for the sick and believe for their healing.

Statement of Faith #11: We believe healing is provided for in the atonement of Christ and is the privilege of all who ask and believe.

The Rapture of the Church: The Rapture is the return of Christ to catch us away to heaven to be with him forever. This is the blessed hope of all believers. Jesus could come at any time. There are many signs of his coming. We must make sure we are ready and tell others to be ready too. Christians will experience the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper in heaven. At the same time, those left behind will suffer in the Great Tribulation on earth.

Statement of Faith #12: We believe the blessed hope of the Church is Christ's return from heaven to 'catch up' the Christians who have died, together with those who are alive, to be with him forever.

End-time Events: The end-time events are about to unfold—the Second Coming of Christ, the Battle of Armageddon, the Millennium, the Great White Throne Judgment, and the new heaven and earth. All remind us that God is in control of the earth, even though it may seem that the opposite is true. Many things must take place before Satan is completely destroyed and we are forever with Jesus. For those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, there is nothing to fear.

Statement of Faith #13: We believe Christ will return with his saints to reign 1,000 years. After this will come the final judgment and a new heaven and a new earth.

Being a Christian takes a lot of courage and determination. You must be willing to let God have control of your life. He wants to shape you into the kind of person who is pleasing to him. You need a personal faith—a belief that you decide on for yourself based on the Bible doctrines you have studied.

We must know **WHAT** we believe and **WHY** we believe it. Then we must **BELIEVE** what we know and **ACT** on what we know and believe. That is how we can live out our faith.

This lesson is **important** because we are reviewing the last seven statements of our faith.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that we must not only know the truths of our faith which are based on the Bible. We must also choose to live out our faith in our daily lives.

Let's **review** this lesson—

1. What is the main purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit? [Pause.]
A. If you answered, “The main purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to give believers power and boldness to witness to others about Jesus,” you answered correctly.
2. What are the two parts of sanctification? [Pause.]
A. If you said, “The two parts of sanctification are to separate ourselves from sin and to dedicate ourselves to God,” you are correct.
3. What is the basis for our faith in divine healing? [Pause.]
A. If you answered that the basis for our faith in divine healing is Christ's atonement on the Cross for our salvation and healing, you are right.

Your **assignment** is to review the seven *Statements of Faith* in this final lesson and be able to share with friends and family the truth of these statements.