

THE FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIANITY

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Human race are social beings. Normally, as social beings we would interact with our fellowmen. Yet, we are God's created beings as well. As created beings, we certainly have a relationship with the Creator. In Christian faith, man was created in the image or likeness of God (Gen.1:26-27). Consequently, in their relationship with the unseen Creator (John 1:18 and Hebrew 11:6), human beings often use ways or models of interactions similar to those practiced in their daily lives. For example, by prioritizing and building trust, spending time together, developing an atmosphere of love, respect, and more.

Comparing Each Other's Faith

Consciously or not, we sometimes tend to compare our conditions or our children with others', for example concerning their physical developments. *See, my child can walk at this age, while other children have not learned yet.* When our child has entered school, we also tend to compare his or her physical developments

with other children, to know who is taller and sometimes to appraise who is more handsome or pretty. We also like to compare our child's intelligence with other children's, and so on. Obviously we not only tend to compare our child and our family members with others', but to compare ourselves too with others.

Even in church we oftentimes tend to compare our faith with others'. When we see our friends being active in the church ministries, we assume that their faith is more mature. When we hear a member of the church singing with a beautiful voice as a soloist in front of the congregation, we are of the opinion that the person is not only a man or woman of faith, but also one gifted by God with a special talent. If we meet a Sunday School teacher, we say in our hearts, *Oh, he or she must be a person with a great faith.* We also respect or honor people who diligently spread the gospel, driven by their admirable faith. And if we hear someone preaching well, we consider the person's faith excellent. Moreover if he or she can preach in front of a big congregation or audience, his or her faith must be very inspiring.

Our evaluations or judgments described above, assuming that others are better based merely on our eyesight or our hearings, are not entirely false. The author would like to make this comparison: the condition regarding the outward appearances could be likened to a building. By this the author means a building might look good

or not good, grand or simple, all are just externally, only from the outside. However there is another more important matter that needs a special attention, namely the foundation of the building. Likewise, when we talk about faith, there is a most important matter that must be highlighted, and that is the foundation of our faith. Why is the foundation of a building or of our faith so important? It is because the foundation actually sustains the building. If the base or the foundation of a building is not firm, then the building can collapse easily. So too with faith. Occasionally we heard of some activists who were amazingly diligent in serving the Lord and had become "God's instruments", suddenly receded and disappeared. They were not active anymore, even some left their faith for another belief. How could this happen?

The Foundations of Faith

When we notice, the cases discussed above are, in fact, the results of the fragility or lack of strength concerning the foundations of faith. The activities might look good, yet the foundations of faith were not strong. Therefore, the foundations of faith are very important and fundamental for us to comprehend and possess. Indeed, there are many important and fundamental things in the

Christian faith, but the author will discuss only what are considered most important.

First Foundation: Jesus is the Messiah

This is recorded among others in Matthew 16:13-20

16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

16:14 And they said, "Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets."

16:15 He saith \unto them, "But whom say ye that I am?"

16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

16:19 “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

16:20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

From the verses above, some said that the foundation of the Christian faith was Peter since in verses 18-19 it is written, *“Thou art **Peter**, and **upon this rock I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

Is it possible that the foundation of the Christian faith or the foundation of the church is planted on some man or on a human being? No, it is definitely impossible, for in Jeremiah 17:5 it is said, *Thus saith the LORD; **cursed be the man that trusteth in man**, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.* (KJV)

*Or This what the Lord says: **Cursed is the one who trusts in man**, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD* (NIV).

So if the church is founded on man, it is certainly contradictory to this verse. Beyond that, the Bible records that

Peter was one of Jesus' disciples who denied Him three times. (See Matthew 26:30-35,69-75.) Even afterwards, subsequent to the events, Paul once reprimanded Peter because he saw that Peter's behaviour was hypocritical and not in accordance with the truth of the Gospel. (See Galatians 2:11-14.) Therefore, neither the Christian faith nor the church could be founded on Peter who was a mere human being.

Using A Name As A Symbol

*“... thou art **Peter**, and upon this **rock** I will **build my church**.”*

"Peter" is a word which means "rock", and indeed God often called people with a name that symbolized something, such as in Hosea 1:6, *"And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Lo-Ruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away."*

Obviously the name Lo-Ruhamah is **a symbol** that God would no more have mercy upon the house of Israel and would utterly take them away. In other words, God would no longer show love to the house of Israel and would not forgive them. Also in Hosea 1:9, *"Then said God, Call his name Lo-Ammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God."*

Hence, what are the foundations of the Christian faith?

One most important foundation of the Christian faith is recorded in Matthew 16:16. In verse 15 *Jesus asked, "But whom say ye that I am?"* 16 *And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art **the Christ**, the Son of the living God."* This is again emphasized in verse 20, *"Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus **the Christ**."*

So it is clear that one most important foundation of the Christian faith is the conviction or the belief that Jesus is Christ, the Messiah. That is the foundation of the church, that is the foundation of the Christian faith.

The Work of the Father in Peter

Regardless of Peter's weaknesses, Jesus honored the work of the Father in Peter (verse 17). *Jesus said, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."* Amidst the teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the confusion among the crowds as well, Peter declared something right even though his statement that Jesus was the Messiah did not truly come out of his own mind but from God the Father through him. The foundation of the

Christian faith is definitely not Peter, yet his confession that Jesus was the Messiah is followed with some explanation in verse 19, *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

At a glance, the verse above describes that Jesus gave Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven, *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven”*: But when we read further, *“... and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven,”* this part explains that there is a connection between what is done in the world and what will happen in heaven. Thus from the verse we are given the understanding of whether at the end we are to enter into the kingdom of heaven or not; which would be determined by what we do in this world. This means that if **during our lives in the world** we confess Jesus is the Messiah, we will enter into heaven, but if we never made this confession we will not enter into heaven. This also means that if someone dies and has never confessed Jesus is the Messiah during his or her life, there will be no way for that person to enter into the kingdom of heaven. So if the foundation of Christian faith is Peter, the opportunity to enter into the kingdom of heaven would end when Peter died, which also means the end of Christianity. Meanwhile, in the verse after Peter’s

confession, the Lord Jesus declared that the foundation of the Christian faith is eternal, *"And I say unto you, Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**"* (Matthew 16:18).

Therefore the paragraph of Matthew 16:13-20, might be simplified as follows:

16:13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of man is?"

16:14 And they replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

16:15 Then Jesus asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

*16:16 And Simon Peter answered, "**You are the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the living God.**"*

16:17 And Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona: for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."

*16:18 And I also tell you, that you are Peter, and on **this confession that Jesus is Christ, the Messiah** (this rock) I will build my church; and the gates of hell will not overcome it.*

*16:19 And to **anyone who confesses that Jesus is Christ, the Messiah** (you) I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you*

bind on earth will be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

16:20 Then Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ, (the Messiah).

The Meaning of the Word Messiah

Messiah is Christ. The two words are of the same meaning, whereas Messiah is in Hebrew and Christ (Christos) in Greek. Messiah or Christ is a title, which means **The Anointed One**. This title is given to **The Saviour** (or **The Deliverer**, or **The Redeemer**) whose coming had been prophesied by the prophets and was fulfilled by the birth of the Lord Jesus, as recorded among others in Luke 2:11 *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”*

Jesus Is the Saviour and the Lord

The verse above said, *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* Here we can draw at least 2 meanings.

First, **Jesus Christ is the Saviour**. Second, **Jesus Christ is the Lord**.

Jesus Christ is the Saviour

In John 14:6 is written, “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” The Christian faith is based on one conviction that **salvation is made possible only through Jesus Christ**. This is confirmed in Acts 4:12, “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*”

Evidently we are given this most important knowledge that the only way to eternal salvation is only through **Jesus Christ, the Saviour**.

Thus Christian faith is based on the belief that man cannot pay for his or her sins and cannot get away from the penalty of those sins, except he or she acknowledges individually as a sinful human being and accept Jesus Christ as his or her personal Saviour, because Jesus Christ had died on the cross to bear the sins of mankind.

Jesus Christ is Lord

If we truly believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, we would never have any doubt about His resurrection, for He is Lord. As it is clear in Mark 16:6 *"And he (the young man clothed in a long white garment) saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: **he is risen**; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him."*

We would not question or argue about the truth of the verse which mention that Jesus was risen from the death, if we believe He is Lord. Or that Jesus was taken up to heaven as is recorded among others in Acts 1:9, *"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up**; and a cloud received him out of their sight.* Indeed we would never question this nor doubt about this. Therefore, anyone who confesses to be a Christian yet still doubt about the resurrection of Jesus the Lord or about His ascension, is actually not in doubt of His resurrection, rather he or she does not believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.

If we truly believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, we would be in line with what is said in Proverbs 3:5, *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."*

Hence we surely would believe in Jesus Christ with all our hearts because we are convinced that Jesus Christ is Lord and put

our trust wholeheartedly in Him. And we would not rely on man, for even if he is considered very great, he could never exceed the Lord. Nor would we rely on our own strength since our strength is unreliable and inadequate. And we definitely would always long to be close to the Lord, because we believe that **Jesus Christ is Lord.**

Faith and Prayer

And we would be blessed, because we trust in the LORD and put our hope in Him, as recorded in Jeremiah 17:7, *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.*

Hence, if we truly believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, we would faithfully and diligently worship Him. We would always strive to be near Him, and would always pray surrendering all our plans to Him.

And if we believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, we would long to be baptized as we can read in Romans 10:9, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.* And in Matthew 28:19-20, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.*

Consciously and Understandingly

Romans 10: 9 contains at least two significant things. The first is *“If thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus”*. The word **“confess”** here bears the meaning of **“being conscious”** or **“consciously”** while uttering something. So it is clear that confessing is done consciously or with awareness, for only by being conscious of our condition can we confess something sincerely and rightly.

The second is *“and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”*. The word **“believe”** here implies that we **“understand”**, because we can not believe in something we do not understand. Even though we may not understand entirely, we have at least some understanding of the matter. Like the author's grandson who one day asked, *“Grandpa, about the earth and the sun, which one is bigger?”* The author answered, *“The sun.”* The boy replied, *“Why then does it seem so small?”* The author took a book and held it upward. Then he moved backward, and further backwards. *“You see the book looks smaller, doesn't it?”* *“Yes, it looks smaller,”* the boy responded. *“The sun looks small because it is far away from us”*, explained the author to his grandson. Although the boy did not understand completely, at least

he got some understanding at that moment which led him to believe.

Why is this necessary to be conveyed? Because as Christians we need to introspect ourselves. This means that we have to examine our inner condition and recognize whether we in our lives have ever consciously and understandingly accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. Yes, we could have been baptized or have made a confession of faith as teenagers, and even some of us were baptized as children or babies. When we were still small we surely did not understand the significance of these all. Yet we should also flash back to ponder whether our confession of faith, when we as teenagers accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, was done consciously and understandingly. If it is not so, we probably have not accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour yet. In that case, we need to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour right now, consciously and understandingly.

Second Foundation: The Bible Is the Word of God

The second foundation of Christianity is the conviction or the belief that the Bible is the word of God. The Bible was written in the span of more than 1600 years by 40 different authors. Nevertheless

the contents of all the books are not contradictory, rather complementary and explain each other. Some people asked the author why he can write Christian books since he has never studied in any Theological School or Seminary. Indeed the author is given the ability to write by God's mercy. And habitually, whenever the author wants to understand a certain word or phrase he just search the word in the Bible. Usually he is able to find quite a few verses that explain that word or that phrase.

And besides, the Bible describes various events in a coherent and credible fashion, beginning with the creation of the heavens and the earth, then the creation of man, and ending up on the threshold of eternity. Furthermore, archaeological discoveries support the integrity of its records, both historically as well as geographically. For example, the ruins of Queen of Sheba's palace site was recently discovered. The books of 1 Kings (10:1-13) and 2 Chronicles (9:1-12) explain that when Solomon became king of the Israelites, the Queen of Sheba came to visit him in Jerusalem.

And also in the tomb of Jonah the Prophet were recently found inscriptions which describe the city of Nineveh. Moreover, its accuracy and transcriptions for us were also reinforced by the scrolls found in the cave of Qumran, on the banks of the Dead Sea.

Many prophecies in the Bible were already fulfilled. For example, the prophecies regarding the coming of the Lord Jesus.

There were hundreds of prophecies about the coming of the Messiah and 40 major prophecies about the birth of the Lord Jesus fulfilled. But most important of all is that the whole Bible is true. Hence not just historically correct or accurate, but the content, namely the verses are truly correct. Since long in the past, the author has been the type of person who pays much attention to his family. That is why the author read a lot and attended seminars on family building and then tried to put the teachings into practice. But after experimenting on various theories, suggestions and admonitions, the author finally realized that only what is written in the Bible is true and right.

Babies and Adults

So if we truly believe that the Bible is the word of God, we certainly would be thirsty for the word of God as described in 1 Peter 2:2, *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."*

Why is it put here *"as newborn babes"*? Because when the baby's milk comes late, even a bit late while it is feeding time yet, the baby would immediately cry for it. So too should we be regarding the thirst for God's word. When there is no desire in us to read and listen to God's word, we must question our faith, then.

For if we have a living and growing faith, we would be like a baby who will cry instantly when it is time to get its milk.

Then further in Hebrew 5:13-14 we read, *“For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*
(KJV)

Or *“Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”*
(NIV)

So if we are already Christians for quite long or quite some time, we surely can not feed just on milk. If a child feeds on milk continually, he would look sweet, but if an adult continually feeds on milk, he would be laughed at. As we grow up, we naturally look for solid food. When we listen to God’s word or read it through, we do not look for just pleasant words or nice messages, but we should be open minded to rebukes and advices. So, when we hear the rebuking words and feel offended or get angry, it signifies that we are still childish in our faith.

Thus, what should we do?

We should be like the early church described in Acts 17:11, *“These (the Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”* (KJV)

Or *“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures everyday to see if what Paul said was true.”* (NIV)

Hence we should become God's children who are open minded and enthusiastic while listening to God's word, rather than listen reluctantly bothered by sleepiness. Then we also should make time each day to earnestly study God's word or search the Scriptures, not just reading through.

Some might ask, *“Sir, we have read the Bible several times from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation. Actually, how many times do we have to read it?”*

John 10:4-5 says, *“And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for **they know his voice.***

*10:5 And a stranger will not they follow, but will flee from him: **for they know not the voice of strangers.**”*

Now these verses explain that we as children of God must be able to recognize the voice of God our Father. Yet this is not

enough; we have to be able to distinguish the voice of the shepherd from the voice of strangers. So, how many times do we have to read the Bible? Well, until we **can distinguish** between the word of God and the false teachings. That is what the Lord requires from us. (Please read the author's book "*The Characteristics of God's Children*")

The Third Foundation: Doers of the Word

The third foundation of Christianity is explained among others in Luke 6:47-49,

6:47 *“Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like.*

6:48 *He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.*

6:49 *But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.”*

The pericope above explains that hearing the word of God and doing it, as one of the foundations of Christianity, would in fact be an effort to strengthen the Christian faith. So when there is bitterness, temptation, and even persecution our faith would be unshakeable. But on the contrary, whenever we only hear and do not do the word of God, then surely we do not put our faith fully in the Lord Jesus; and when there is bitterness, temptation and persecution we would fall, even fall away.

If we read the history, on November 1, 1755 Lisbon the capital of Portugal was hit by a bad earthquake which reached to 8-9 on the Richter scale and a devastating tsunami, which destroyed 80% of the buildings in the city of Lisbon and the remaining 20% were heavily damaged. And if we observe closely, from the buildings that were not destroyed, one was found relatively intact, the National Palace of Pena. All parts of that building were intact, nothing changed even in the least, except the clock tower which had collapsed. Why can this building remain intact even now? Because it **was built on a granite rock hill**. Perhaps, this building depicts what the Lord Jesus said, that when a house is built on a rock, even though the flood comes the house will not collapse. Likewise, to become hearers and doers of the word shows that we are people who build our Christian faith on Jesus Christ the Solid Rock as our foundation. On the contrary, 80% of

the collapsed houses can be likened to the houses built without foundations.

Our Personal Experience With the Lord

Why can hearing and doing God's word strengthen our faith?
Because our faith must also be based on our personal experience with the Lord.

This is similar to Job's experience,

Job 42:5-6 *"I have heard of thee **by the hearing of the ear**: but now **mine eye seeth thee**. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*

So the Christian faith is insufficient when the foundation on which to build is **only by the hearing**, for example: *Oh I have heard the testimony of A; the Lord helped him. Or, I have heard the testimony of B; the Lord healed him. Or else, I have heard the testimony of C, his problems were solved by God.* All these are not enough, though. We must have **our own experience with the Lord, or with God**. We ourselves should feel the power of the Lord in our lives. We ourselves should feel the presence of the Lord in our lives, because this personal experience with the Lord would become another strong foundation of our faith.

The same thing happened to the Samaritans, who said in John 4:42, “*And (they) said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for **we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.***”

So the foundation of our faith must be based on our own experience with the Lord too, just like the Samaritans. They had heard the Lord Jesus themselves and saw Him themselves, as He stayed with them, so that they knew for sure the Lord Jesus was Christ the Saviour. “*So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them and **he abode there two days.***” (John 4:40).

A Testimony

The author has a son-in-law who owns a wholesale business of power tools, and they are very close to each other. Nevertheless the author does not like to interfere with the financial operations of his son in law. The author once told him about tithing, but had no intention at all to impose it on him, since to give tithe should be one's own financial management. The author made several appeals until the son in law was willing to do so. The author remembered that at the end of February 2018, when he met him, the son in law suddenly said, “*Dad, God is so awesome.*” The

author asked, "Why?" So he explained that several days previously he and his wife, the author's daughter, calculated their financial position at the end of 2017 comparing it with theirs at the end of 2016. And he was shocked, because the surplus was so excessive.

The author was often asked to join in the discussion about their business. *"Dad, you know that our monthly turnover is this much, our profit is this percent, so our monthly profit will be this much. Our cost is this big, so every month we will have this amount of netto profit. Thus in a year the profit will be X dollars, yet in fact it is so much more, Dad. I also wonder where all the money comes from. Even if our profit is doubled to 2X dollars, the surplus is still far beyond, because we found the difference compared to last year has mounted up to 5X."* And both of them, husband and wife, until this day can not understand where the 5 X amount of money comes from.

The author himself is not surprised, because during his life he gave tithe, then quitted, and gave tithe again, then stopped again. Later, he has started tithing again until now. The author also did not remember why he stopped, but by stopping then giving again, the author has learned and experienced the difference between whenever he gave tithes and whenever he did not.

The author belongs to them who often encourage and remind family, friends and congregation to give their tithes. To what

purpose? It is not to gain more money. No! But so that we can see the awesomeness and greatness of God. When we are sick and pray, then recover, we can argue a lot, *"Well, yes I am healed, because the doctor is great"*. Or *"Because the medical world is so advanced."* Or *"Because the medicine is efficacious."* Or *"Because the illness is not too serious."* But, concerning giving tithes there would not be too many arguments and disputes. Why? Because in economics we are taught that *"if you want to have more money, then spend less."* But the LORD told us to give, and we will receive more, and not just more He even promised to give us abundantly by opening the windows of heaven for us.

Malachi 3:10 *"Bring ye all the tithe into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of host, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."*

The author speaks of tithing not because he wants to get the tithes, while he is not a Pastor or a Minister. Rather, that we ourselves can really feel the power of the LORD so as to experience and witness that the LORD we worship is the living God, the amazing, awesome great God!

Therefore let us be doers of the word, not just hearers, so that the solid foundations of the Christian faith we have could be manifested. This is what the Bible describes as having the living

faith, and not the reverse, the dead faith if we are only hearers and not doers of the word of God.

James 2:26, *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*