

The Gospel of John: Light in the Darkness
The Work God Requires of Everyone; John 6:22-40

John 6:22-23 The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there except one, and that Jesus had not gotten into the boat with His disciples, but that His disciples had departed alone. Other small boats came from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

John 6:24-26 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats and came to Capernaum, looking for Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

They are working really hard, just for the wrong things.

John 6:26-27 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate some of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

The real work is a work of faith, believing in Jesus Christ.

John 6:28-29 Therefore they said to Him, "What are we to do, so that we may accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Romans 10:2-4 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Philippians 3:7-9 But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

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Story of Elias Keach, early Baptist preacher in Colonial America.

Salvation testimony of Amy Carmichael.

“I had not understood that there was something more to do, something that may be called ‘coming to him’ or ‘opening the door to him’ or ‘giving oneself to him.’ During those quiet few minutes, in his great mercy the Good Shepherd drew me, even me, into his fold.” Amy Carmichael

A conversion must occur. We must be born again. Each one of us must receive living water. Each one must receive the Bread of Life. You must believe in the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Without faith in Jesus Christ there is no life. Through faith in Jesus Christ there is life everlasting.

Each individual, on their own, with commitment of their will in submission to God’s will, must believe in Christ. Each individual, on their own, must embrace Jesus Christ with the heart and mind. Each one must believe in Christ. Each individual, the way that individual receives daily food to keep them alive, must receive Jesus Christ for eternal life.

Always looking for another sign.

John 6:30-31 So they said to Him, “What then are You doing as a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work are You performing? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.’”

I Corinthians 1:22-25 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than mankind, and the weakness of God is stronger than mankind.

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John 6:32-33 Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.”

What does believing in the Son of God, the One whom God has sent, look like? Like a hungry person receiving some bread to eat. Like a thirsty person getting a drink of lifesaving water. Jesus is the bread. Jesus is the water.

John 6:34-35 Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me will not be hungry, and the one who believes in Me will never be thirsty.

Why, despite all the overwhelming evidence, do some in the crowd not believe?

John 6:36-37 But I said to you that you have indeed seen Me, and yet you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I certainly will not cast out.

What does receiving eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ ultimately mean? What does that look like in concrete terms? A bodily resurrection from the dead to eternal life.

John 6:38-40 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of everything that He has given Me I will lose nothing, but will raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”