



**From the Heart of our Superintendent
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Foundational Truths, Part V

What do you really believe when it comes to your faith? Can you defend the very truths that you claim to believe? What are the essential teachings of our faith? These are important questions. These are the type of questions that I expect those who are graduating from Keswick to be able to answer. These are questions that you and I ought to be able to answer. Ten of the eleven Apostles died violent deaths because they would not recant their faith in Jesus Christ. They would not budge on the essential teachings of the Word of God. Fast-forward to our world today and there many who suffer and are even facing the threat of execution because of their faith.

The past few weeks, we have been considering what I refer to as "foundational truths". These are the truths of Scripture that if discredited, would destroy the very foundations of our faith. They are the "essentials" of what we believe. They are not peripheral points of doctrine that often separate us by our denominations; these truths are the very core of evangelical belief.

We considered the absolute importance of the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures. Either the Bible is God's inspired, inerrant, and infallible word, or it isn't. We looked at the significance of a salvation that is by grace through faith alone and how saving faith always results in the living out of good works. We considered the absolute necessity of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In our last session, we outlined the essential doctrine of the deity of Jesus Christ. Jesus is not only the Son of God, he is God, the Son. All of Christianity would be destroyed if Jesus turned out to be anything less than what he claimed.

The next essential doctrine of our faith is that of the Virgin Birth. Once again, while this has been disputed throughout the ages, it has never been successfully refuted. This doctrine is one of absolute necessity. Sin is passed on through the seed of the male, not the female. If Jesus was conceived due to a human father's seed, he would have been born with a sinful nature. As such, he would not be God. His conception was a divine conception. Joseph was told, "what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus." Matthew goes on to record this, "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:20-23 NIV Furthermore, Paul goes on to affirm that Jesus was born of a woman in Galatians 4:4. "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights as sons." The virgin birth is an absolute essential doctrine that must be held to without compromise. Altering or diminishing this doctrine would bring down the whole of Christianity.