

So Then, Now What Do I Do?

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Toward a Better Understanding of the Sovereignty of God
Part of Chapter 6 “Our Participation in the Kingdom of God”
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So Then, Now What Do I Do?

When Christians begin to realize that they took a wrong turn in their walks with the Lord—that all they’ve been doing to improve themselves and serve God isn’t required because Jesus really did “pay it all,” some of the first questions many ask are, “Now what do I do? If being a Christian isn’t about what I do, then what is it about? What does God want from me?”

These are reasonable questions, and they have been asked for centuries. Jesus has the answer.

After Jesus fed the 5,000,¹ some of those who were miraculously fed followed Him to Capernaum. Jesus knew their motives and said to them:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”

What would “laboring for the food which endures to everlasting life” look like? So they asked Him,

“What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”
Jesus answered and said to them,
“This is the work of God,
that you believe in Him whom He sent.”²

¹ Jn. 6

² If you haven’t noticed this verse before, you might want to take a moment and reflect upon it (Jn. 6:29). If you, like we and so many others, have been seeking to be right with God or to please Him by what you do and don’t do, this would be a good time to repent. Faith is what pleases God, and apart from faith, it is impossible to please Him (Heb. 11:6). Express again your faith in His grace to save you and keep you saved. Forsake self-righteousness and receive the righteousness that is of faith alone.

Imagine the impact this response might have had on these Jews. Shouldn't Jesus have emphasized to them the importance of keeping the law? Previously, He taught that the two great commands of the Old Covenant were to love the Lord their God completely, and love their neighbor as themselves, saying, "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets," (Mt. 22:40). They must have wondered at His words.

What they didn't perceive was that a change was coming. The kingdom which was soon to come to them would not be based on the Law and Prophets. It would be focused on His Son.

Hebrews 1:1-2

*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² **has in these last days spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.*

The Law and the Prophets would still have a purpose,³ but God would no longer speak to them through the Law and Prophets. He would speak to them directly through His Son. The Law was clear about how to work the works of God, but Jesus showed them a new and living way—the way of faith.

"This is the **work of God, that you **believe in Him** whom He sent."**

In most Christian communities, the focus is primarily on what we should do and should not do as believers. Eager new Christians asking what they should do to work the works of God are routinely encouraged to attend some form of discipleship program. We do believe in Jesus, and we see our *initial* salvation as based on Him, but our concept of discipleship often focuses on us—developing ourselves spiritually and getting involved in ministry.

Initially, many enjoy the process of becoming more disciplined, but after several years of diligently seeking and serving, some secretly ask themselves, "Where is the joy I once knew? What *more* does God want from me?" This is what causes the hunger, thirst, and desperation for God that many Christians needlessly carry—the opposite of the abundant life Jesus came to give us.

To this same crowd in Capernaum who sought Jesus for bread, He said:

**"I am the bread of life.
He who comes to Me shall never hunger,**

³ 1 Tim. 1:9-10

and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.⁴

Since this is true, then why are Christians encouraged to “cultivate” a hunger, thirst, and desperation for God? Why do some teach that we need to ask God to “break” us, “humble” us, “crush” us, and even that He “crucify” us?⁵ Where is the promised rest?

Matthew 11:28-30

*“Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you **rest**.²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find **rest** unto your souls.³⁰ For My yoke is **easy**, and My burden is **light**.”*

Rest. Easy. Light. For many believers, their experience is the complete opposite—exhausting, difficult, and heavy. To find our way back to our first love and the joy we experienced when we first believed, we must reeducate ourselves about what it is Jesus wants from us. It is important for us to understand that the first participation in the kingdom of the Son of His love is to believe. That is the work God wants from us. **Believe in Jesus.**

Next, we need to understand that Jesus gave a new commandment of this new covenant to His disciples. It was not the summary of the Law and Prophets given to the Jews who were still under the law (to love God and love our neighbors). It was much more personal.

1 John 13:34-35

*“A **new** commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

Why didn’t Jesus at this crucial moment prior to His death and resurrection remind His disciples to keep the law of Moses, to love the Lord their God with all their hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love their neighbors as themselves? Instead, He gave them a new commandment. He told them to love each other as He loved them. Our love for each other in the body of Christ is unique and a testimony to everyone that we are His.

Herein lies the promised rest. Being a Christian IS this simple. Believe in Him and love one another.

⁴ Jn. 6:35

⁵ Gal. 2:20 says that we HAVE BEEN crucified with Christ, BUT NOW we live.

1 John 3:23

*And this is His commandment: that we should **believe** on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and **love** one another, as He gave us commandment.*

This “burden” truly is easy and light, especially when considering that even though it is by choice that we keep these two commandments, He is the One who writes them in our hearts (Heb. 8:10).