

# Kevin Tregenza: Essentials (20/4/19)

## Introduction:

"But without faith *it is impossible* to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." **Hebrews 11:6**

There are some strong words in this verse. Did you notice them?

- "impossible" - He says that faith is essential! Without faith, it is impossible to please God.
- "must" - He also says that belief is essential! We must believe that He is.

There are some things that the Bible prescribes as "essential" for Salvation. These are some of those things that are considered essential for the Christian. Let's have a look at them in a little bit more detail now.

## Belief:

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life" **John 6:47**

Here we find Jesus reiterating the same thing we just read in the book of Hebrews - belief is essential for eternal life!

But let's look just a bit further down the page at verse fifty seven.

"As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me." **John 6:57**

Jesus says that He "lives by the Father" and then invites us to "live by Him."

The interesting thing about this word "belief" is that it comes from Old English words 'Leave' to live, and 'By.' In other words, the root meaning of this word is to 'live-by' something. In this case, Jesus says that He 'lives by' the Father, and invites us to 'live by' Him.

"And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." **Acts 16:30,31**

This is a question that we have all either asked at one point in our lives, or should be asking. These men wanted to know what was essential in order for them to have eternal life. The answer is exactly what we have been noticing - believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!

Now let's go back to John chapter six. We read verses 47 & 57, but we missed a whole chunk between them - so let's go and see what that has to say.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us *His* flesh to eat?" Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." **John 6:47-58**

Notice in this passage that Jesus makes a few equivalences. He says 'believe in me' for that is essential to eternal life. He then goes on and says that He is 'the bread of life' - and all of us know that food is an essential part of life! Jesus is saying that believing in Him (living by Him) is as essential to your life as eating food. Taking Jesus into our soul bring eternal life, and conversely, without taking Him in to the soul we will not survive.

When you take food into your body what happens to it? It is assimilated by your body and it becomes part of you through your blood. In the same way we must take Jesus into us - becoming one!

When we do this every day for our physical bodies we are able to grow. It is "essential" for growth! In the same way, Jesus indicates to us, it is "essential" to eat of Him through His Word and have Him become one with us.

Living by - belief - is essential to life!

Though food it is an essential, it is not the only thing that is essential. If you ate food, but did not get fresh air, exercise, water etc you would not grow to be healthy and strong. In the same way, if we believe in Jesus that does not remove the responsibility to love others, keep God's commandments etc.

### More Essentials:

Let's explore some more of John's writing and see if He does give us a clue as to some other "essentials" for the Christian life.

"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" **1 John 3:23**

Did you notice the list of essentials that John points out to us in this verse?

We need to *believe* AND to *love one another* AND to *keep His commandments* AND to *listen to His Spirit*.

Belief is essential, but it is not exclusive.

But John isn't finished. Back in the gospel of John we will find several more "essentials."

"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'... Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God... Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." **John 3:7,3,5**

'You must be born again.' Jesus says. 'Unless you are born again,' he continues, 'you cannot see the Kingdom.' 'Unless you are born again,' he reinforces, 'you cannot enter the Kingdom.' New birth is "essential!"

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." **John 4:23,24**

Speaking to the woman at the well, Jesus says, 'Worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.' This is "essential!" God is far too amazing to receive only a half-hearted worship.

In John 14:6, Jesus adds, 'I am the truth.' And in John 6:63 He says: "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life." The Spirit is responsible for bringing life to the believer, but the words of Jesus, He says, 'are spirit and they are life!'

The Word of God is an essential pathway to receiving the Spirit and to having life!

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." **John 17:17**

To feed on truth we must read the Word. We get to know the living word by getting to know the written word.

### Conclusion:

Let's spend a lot more time in the "essential" words of God.

Let's get to know the word of God so that when we are tempted we can overcome as Jesus overcame.

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." **John 8:32,36**

You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free!

If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed!