



A **SOLID FOUNDATION** *for*
Strength and Comfort

Ten “true truths” (to borrow Francis Schaeffer’s phrase)
for a firm foundation for life and hope:

- I. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** was crucified, dead and buried, but He bodily arose from the dead. **CHRIST** is indeed alive! This is the bedrock foundation of our faith.
For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:3–8)
- II. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** bodily ascended to heaven, and will bodily return to earth.
And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:9–11)
- III. WHEN HE COMES,** Jesus Christ will bring with Him our blessed believing dead.
But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14)
- IV. FOR THE SAVED IN CHRIST,** to be absent from the body is to be present with the LORD.
So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:6–8)
- V. THE SOULS OF BELIEVERS** pass immediately into heaven.
And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)
- VI. THE SAVED** are, at their deaths, made perfect in holiness, made perfect in godliness, and freed from sin.
But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect . . . (Hebrews 12:22–23)

VII. AT THE FINAL RESURRECTION, the souls of believers will be united with their glorified bodies.

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51–52)

VIII. YES, we will know our beloved believing dead in heaven.

David, concerning his departed child, said, *“But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.”* (2 Samuel 12:23)

On the Mount of Transfiguration: *And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.* (Matthew 17:1–3)

Jesus said, *“I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”* (Matthew 26:29)

And Stephen said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” (Acts 7:56)

IX. BELIEVER, GOD LOVES you with an everlasting love!

...the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.” (Jeremiah 31:3)

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

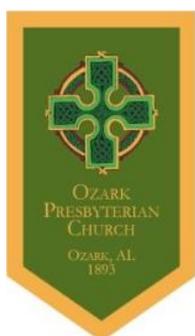
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

X. THE ETERNAL GOD is ever-present with the believer.

...for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

Jesus said, *“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.”* (Matthew 10:29–30)

Composed, recorded and affirmed April, 22, 2014 by long time PCA pastor Henry Lewis Smith as he drove away from the cemetery having just laid the body of his wife, Anna Beth, in her grave. Like Francis Schaeffer, in that moment he felt the need to reconstruct his faith from ground zero, asking, “What are the true truths on which I can stand?”



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All Scripture quotes from
the English Standard Version