

# Seven General Commands

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- **Repent, Believe the Good News, Receive the Holy Spirit**
  - Mark 1:15 – and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
  - John 3:16 – God’s Amazing Love
  - John 20:22 - And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”
- **Baptize**
  - Matthew 28:18-20 – Great Commission
- **Lord's Supper**
  - Matthew 26:26-28 – While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.
- **Love God, Love Neighbor, Love Enemies, Love Believers**
  - Luke 10:25-37 – Good Samaritan
  - John 13:34-35 – A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
  - Matthew 18:21-35 – Ungrateful Servant
- **Pray in the Name of Jesus**
  - John 16:24 – Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.
- **Give Generously**
  - Luke 6:38 – “...Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”
- **Make Disciples**
  - Matt. 28:18-20 – Great Commission

# Commands of Christ – References and Stories

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## 1) “Follow me.” Mt 19.28, Jn 8.12, 21.19, 22

- a. Hear and obey me. Mt 7.24, 13.43, Mk 7.16, Lk 9.44, Jn 8.51
- b. Be careful how you listen. Pay attention to what you hear. Mt 4.24 Lk 8.18
- c. Be as wise as snakes and as gentle as doves. Mt 10.16
- d. Work ... for the lasting food that gives eternal life. Jn 6.27
- e. Hear the Word of God and put it into practice. Lk 11.28

### Stories

- Jesus’ disciples leave their boats to follow Jesus and become fishers of men, Matthew 4:17-25.
- Levi leaves a lucrative but sinful tax-collecting occupation to follow Jesus, Luke 5:27-31.

## 2) “Repent.” Mt 4:17, Mk 1:15, Rv 2.16

### *a. Repent for salvation*

1. Fear the one who can both kill you and throw you into hell. Lk 12.5
2. Say, “God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.” Lk 18.13
3. Come, follow me. Mk 1.17, Lk 5.28
4. Turn and be forgiven. Mt 4.12
5. Enter through the narrow gate. Mt 7.13, Lk 13.24
6. Change your mind and become like little children. Mt 18.2
7. Calculate the cost, come after me ... own interests aside ... take up a cross ... and follow me. Mt 16.24, Mk 8.34, Lk 9.59, 14.27-28, 31-32

### *b. Repent for discipleship*

1. Hunger and thirst after righteousness. Mt 5.6
2. Remove the plank from you own eye. Mt 7.5
3. Leave everything you have... be my disciple. Lk 14.33
4. Say, “We are worthless servants who have only done our duty.” Lk 17.10
5. Hate your life in this world. Jn 12.25
6. Turn back to me and do your first works. Rv 2.5, 16

7. Go back to what you heard and believed at first. Hold it firmly and turn to me again. Rv 3.3, 11

## Stories

- John the Baptist calls on many to forsake their sins and be prepared to receive the Messiah, Matthew 3:1-12.
- A sinful tax collector repents with a short and simple prayer, Luke 18:9-14
- Zacchaeus, a notorious sinner, repents when Jesus shows him God's grace, Luke 19:1-10.
- [Old Testament] Wicked people of Nineveh hear Jonah's proclamation of doom and repent, Jonah 3.

### 3) "Believe the Good News."

#### *a. Believe in God*

1. Believe (the Father) really sent me. Jn 6.29, 11.42, 12.44
2. Believe in God; believe also in me. Jn 14.1
3. Believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me. Jn 14.10-11

#### *b. Believe in Christ*

1. Believe that I AM. Jn 8.24, 13.19
2. Believe in the Son of God. Mt 21.38, Jn 9.35
3. Believe in the Risen Christ. Jn 20.27, 29
4. Come to me ... believe in me ... believe in (the Son).
5. Mt 20.34, Lk 18.42, Jn 6.35, 37, 40, 47, 7.37, 11.25-26, 40, 12.46, 14.1, 12
6. Come to me, everyone who is weary and heavily laden. Mt 11.28
7. Put my yoke upon you and learn about me. Mt 11.29
8. Take up the cross and follow me. Mt 19.21, Mk 10.21, Lk 18.22, Jn 12.26

#### *c. Believe in future glory*

1. Be ready. Mt 24.44, Lk 12.14, 35, 37-38
2. Believe everything the prophets spoke. Lk 24.25
3. (Show) patient endurance. Mt 10.22, Mk 13.13, Lk 21.19
4. Endure to the end. Mt 24.13
5. Lift your heads and look up. Lk 21.28
6. Hold tightly to what you have until I come. Rv 2.25

7. Say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." Lk 13.15

## Stories

- A jailer hears his prisoners Paul and Silas sing about Jesus, believes and is saved along with his family, Acts 16:22-34.
- A Roman centurion shows commendable faith in Jesus' power to heal, Matthew 8:5-13.
- Jesus forgives a paralytic's sins and heals the man's body, because of the faith of the man's friends, Mark 2:1-12.
- [Old Testament] Abraham believes God's promise, and God counts that faith as righteousness, Genesis 15:1-6)

## 4) "Receive the Holy Spirit." Jn 20.22

### *a. Rejoice*

1. Be glad ... jump for joy. Mt 5.12, Lk 6.23
2. Rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven. Lk 10.20
3. Celebrate and be glad. Lk 15.22

### *b. Serve*

1. Say whatever is given to you at the moment. Lk 12.11
2. Abide in me ... and I in you. Jn 15.4-55, 7
3. Be clothed with power from above. Lk 24.49
4. Listen to the Spirit and understand what the Spirit says to the churches. Ac 2.7, 11, 17, 29, 3.6, 13, 22

## Stories

- The risen Christ appears to his startled disciples and tells them to receive the Holy Spirit in order to forgive the sins of many, John 20:19-23.
- 3000 sinners repent and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit after hearing Peter proclaim that God raised Jesus from the dead, Acts 2:36-41.
- Disciples of John the Baptist hear that the One whom John promised has come. They get baptized in Jesus' Name and receive the Holy Spirit, Acts 19:1-7.
- [Old Testament] Ezekiel sees a valley of dry bones to which the Spirit of God adds flesh and they come to life, Ezekiel 37:1-14.

## 5) "Baptize." Mt 28.19

### Stories

- Philip baptizes an Ethiopian official in a desert, Acts 8:26-39.
- John the Baptist baptizes a great number of repentant sinners, and Jesus sets an example by being baptized, Luke 3:1-22.

## 6) "Remember My death."

- a. Take heart ... your sins are forgiven. Mk 2.5, Mt 9.2
- b. Eat this bread ... eat my flesh ... eat his body ... eat my body ... drink his blood ... drink my blood. Lk 22.17, Jn 6.5, 53-54, 58
- c. Eat the body of the Son of Man and drink his blood. Jn 6.53

### Stories

- The night Jesus was betrayed, he tells his disciples to remember his death by breaking bread and drinking the cup that "is the New Covenant in my blood", Luke 22:7-20.
- [Old Testament] Israelites celebrate freedom from slavery by keeping the Passover feast, to which Jesus, the Passover Lamb of the New Covenant, gave a new meaning, Exodus 12:1-14.

## 7) "Love."

### a. Love God

1. "Hear.... Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." (Deuteronomy 6.5). Mt 22.37 Mk 12.29-30
2. Worship & serve the Lord. Lk 4.8, Mt 4.10
3. Worship God in spirit and in truth. Jn 4.24
4. First seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Mt 6.33, Lk 12.30
5. Do the will of my Father. Mt 7.21
6. Hear the Word of God and do it. Lk 8.8, 21
7. Be faithful in the smallest things. Lk 16.10, Lk 19.17
8. Love me, keep my commandments Jn 8.52, 14.15, 21, 23, 15.10, 14

### b. Love neighbors

1. "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19.18). Mt 22.39, Mk 12.30
2. Go learn: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." (Hosea 6.6) Mt 9.13, Mt 12.7
3. Do good on the Sabbath. Mk 3.5
4. "Exercise justice amongst the nations." (Isa 42.2) Mt 12.18

5. Let your light shine before others ... the good things you do. Mt 5.16
  6. Be compassionate.... Be perfect. Mt 5.48 Lk 6.36
  7. Treat other in the way you yourself would like to be treated. Mt 7.12
  8. Judge not by the looks of things; judge rightly. Jn 7.24
  9. Take the least important place, humble yourselves. Lk 14.9, 11, Lk 18.14
  10. (Do) justice, mercy and faithfulness. Mt 23.23
- c. Love enemies. Lk 6.35*
1. Show mercy. Mt 5.7
  2. Make peace. Mt 5.9
  3. Go two miles. Mt 5.41
  4. Try hard to reach a settlement. Mt 5.25, Lk 12.58
  5. Allow him to slap the other cheek also. Mt 5.39
  6. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse and persecute you. Mt 5.44, Lk 6.27
  7. Forgive those who offend you. Mt 6.14, Lk 6.37
- d. Love one another. Jn 15.17*
1. Make it right with him. Then return and offer your gift. Mt 5.24
  2. Be last of all and servant of all. Mk 9.35, Mt 20.27-28, Mk 10.44
  3. Humble yourselves, take the last place. Mt 18.4, Lk 9.48, Mt 19.29, 20.16
  4. Live at peace with each other. Mk 9.50
  5. Go and tell him privately. Mt 18.15
  6. Agree on earth. Mt 18.19
  7. Gather in my name. Mt 18.20
  8. Forgive ... up to seventy times seven. Mt 18.22, 35, Lk 17.4
  9. Standing to pray ... forgive. Mt 11.25
  10. Wash each other's feet. Jn 13.15

## **Stories**

- Jesus tells a skeptical lawyer that two great commands sum up the Law and the Prophets, Matthew 22:35-40.
- A sinful woman shows great love for Jesus, and receives forgiveness, Luke 7:36-50.
- A Samaritan shows loving kindness to an injured man, Luke 10:25.
- Jesus' parable of sheep and goats shows that love must be practical,
- Matthew 25:31-46.

- [Old Testament] Ruth, a Moabite, comes to love her mother-in-law Naomi and the God of Israel, Ruth 1:1-17; 2:11-12

## 8) Pray in Jesus' name. Jn 14.13, 14, 16.24, 26

### *a. Pray to the Father*

1. Pray. Mt 17.21, Mk 9.29
2. Pray to your Father in secret. Mt 6.5, 6, 9, .26, 28, Lk 12.27
3. Cry out to God day and night. Lk 18.7
4. Fast ... in secret. Mt 6.16, 17, 18
5. Ask ... seek ... knock. Mt 7.7, Lk 11.9

### *b. Pray to the Son*

1. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that he will send out workers. Mt 9.38, Lk 10.2
2. Cry to Jesus ... for mercy. Mt 20.31, Mk 10.47-48
3. Have faith.... Ask in prayer.... Truly believe. Mt 21.21, 22 Mk 11.24, Lk 17.6
4. Pray (for an escape). Mt 24.20, Mk 13.17
5. Watch, pray, be careful. Mk 14.38, Mk 13.35, Lk 21.34, 36, 25.13

## Stories

- God's angel frees Peter from prison in response to believer's prayers, Acts 12:1-17.
- Peter and John heal a lame man, telling him in the name of Jesus to stand up, Acts 3:1-16.
- Disciples praise God in one accord for Peter and John's release from jail. The place is shaken; the Holy Spirit fills them, and they speak the Word with boldness, Acts 4:23-31.
- Jesus explains how to pray by telling how a widow kept requesting justice, Luke 18:1-8.
- [Old Testament] Abraham intercedes with God for his nephew Lot and his family, who live in the wicked city Sodom that is about to be destroyed, Genesis 18:17-33.

## 9) Give freely. Mt 10.8

- a. Give to everyone who asks you for something. Mt 5.42 Lk 6.30
- b. Give to the needy ... in secret. Mt 6.2, 3, 4, 26.11, Mk 14.7, Lk 6.38
- c. Sell ... give to the poor. Lk 12.33, Mt 19.21, Lk 18.22
- d. Give from the abundance of your heart. Lk 11.41
- e. Be rich towards God. Lk 12.21
- f. Leave house or parents or ... property. Mt 19.29, Mk 10.29, Lk 18,19
- g. Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. Mk 12.17, Lk 20.25

## Stories

- A poor widow gives more to God than wealthy givers; Mark 12:41-44.
- Jesus explains what it means to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to them, Matthew 25:14-30.
- [Old Testament] Boaz gives barley to poor Ruth in a way that preserves her dignity, Ruth 2.

## 10) Make disciples. Mt 28.18

### a. Globally.

1. See the fields. They are already ripe for harvest. Jn 4.36
2. Go and make disciples of all peoples, teaching them to obey all that I commanded. Mt 28.18-19
3. Proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins, in my name to all nations. Lk 24.47
4. Testify before (authorities) and the Gentiles. Mt 10.18, Lk 21.13
5. Preach this good news of the kingdom to all the world as a testimony to all peoples.
6. Mt 24.14, Mk 13.10
7. Tell people about me everywhere. Ac 1.8
8. Open their eyes. Ac 26.18

### b. Locally

1. Go out and announce the kingdom of God. Lk 9.60
2. Acknowledge me before others. Mt 10.32, Lk 12.8
3. Remain in that home, eating and drinking whatever they provide for you. Lk 10.7
4. Say, "The kingdom of heaven has come"; Heal the sick, raise the dead,
5. heal the lepers, and cast out demons. Mt 10.7-8, Lk 10.9



6. Invite, bring and compel the poor. Mt 22.9, Lk 14.12, 21, 23
7. Let the little children come to me and do not stop them. Mk 10.14
8. Feed my lambs. Shepherd ... feed my sheep. Jn 21.15, 16, 18

## **Stories**

- Jesus, having shown his disciples what to do, sends them out to do it, Luke 10:1-20.
- Paul takes apprentices with him as he plants churches and prepares shepherds, Acts 14:19-23.
- [Old Testament] Aged Jethro advises Moses to form small shepherding groups and arrange accountability to qualified leaders, Exodus 18:13-26. God provides these new shepherds a powerful curriculum: Exodus 19:16-25 and 20:1-22.

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