

The Articles of Faith in the Letters of Paul

Articles of Faith	References in the New Testament Letters
1	2 Corinthians 13:14
2	Galatians 6:7; 1 Corinthians 15:22
3	Colossians 1:20; Hebrews 5:9
4	Hebrews 6:1–2
5	1 Timothy 4:14
6	Ephesians 4:11
7	1 Corinthians 12:8–12
8	2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1
9	1 Corinthians 2:10–11
10	Hebrews 12:22; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13
11	Romans 2:14–16
12	Romans 13:1–7
13	1 Corinthians 13:7; Philippians 4:8

The Letters of Paul and the Articles of Faith

“The grace of the Lord *Jesus Christ*, and the love of *God*, and the communion of the *Holy Ghost*, be with you all” (2Cor 13:14).

1

We believe in *God*, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, *Jesus Christ*, and in the *Holy Ghost*.

“Whatsoever a *man* soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal 6:7).

2

We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for *Adam’s* transgression.

“For as in *Adam* all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (1Cor 15:22).

3

“And having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to *reconcile all things* unto himself” (Col 1:20).

We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, *all* mankind may be *saved*, by *obedience* to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal *salvation* unto *all* them that *obey* him” (Heb 5:9).

4

“The foundation of *repentance* from dead works, and of *faith* toward God, Of the doctrine of *baptisms*, and of *laying on of hands*” (Heb 6:1–2).

We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, *Faith* in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, *Repentance*; third, *Baptism* by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, *Laying on of hands* for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee *by prophecy*, with the *laying on of the hands of the presbytery*” (1Tm 4:14).

5

We believe that a man must be called of God, *by prophecy*, and by the *laying on of hands by those who are in authority*, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

“And he gave some, *apostles*; and some, *prophets*; and some, *evangelists*; and some, *pastors* and *teachers*” (Eph 4:11).

6

We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, *apostles*, *prophets*, *pastors*, *teachers*, *evangelists*, and so forth.

“For to one is given by the Spirit ... the gifts of *healing* ... *prophecy* ... discerning of spirits ... *divers kinds of tongues* ... *the interpretation of tongues*” (1Cor 12:8–10).

7

We believe in the *gift of tongues*, *prophecy*, *revelation*, *visions*, *healing*, *interpretation of tongues*, and so forth.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2Tm 3:16).

“In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every *word* be established” (2Cor 13:1).

“But *God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things*” (1Cor 2:10–11).

“But ye are come unto mount *Sion ... the heavenly Jerusalem*” (Heb 12:22).

“Are not even ye in the *presence of our Lord Jesus Christ* at his coming?” (1Th 2:19).

“He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our *Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints*” (1Th 3:13).

“These ... are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their *conscience* also bearing witness” (Rom 2:14–16).

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers: the *powers that be* are ordained of God” (Rom 13:1–7).

“*Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things*” (1Cor 13:7).

“Whatsoever things are *pure ... lovely ... of good report ... if there be any praise*, think on these things” (Phlp 4:8).

8

We believe the Bible to be the word of *God* as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the *word of God*.

9

We believe all that *God has revealed*, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

10

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that *Zion (the New Jerusalem)* will be built upon the American continent; that *Christ will reign personally upon the earth*; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.

11

We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own *conscience*, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

12

We believe in being subject to *kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates*, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.

13

We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul; *we believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things*. If there is anything *virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy*, we seek after these things.

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Explanation

In the thirteenth Article of Faith, Joseph Smith declared, “Indeed we may say we follow the admonition of Paul.” The writings of Paul were deeply meaningful and fully embraced by the Prophet Joseph Smith. As chart 15-16 shows, the essence of each of the Articles of Faith can be found, often verbatim, in the writings of Paul. Following the table listing the New Testament references, two pages compare the parallel words and thoughts between the letters of Paul and the Articles of Faith. Paul admonished the people in Ephesus to be united in “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all” (Eph 4:5–6). The congruence between the teachings of Joseph Smith and Paul shows them to be of one mind and one will as apostles of Jesus Christ.

Reference

John W. Welch, “Co-Authors of the Articles of Faith?” *Instructor* 114 (November 1969): 422–26.