Jesus will keep and fulfill his words:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

God spoke through his Son:

“Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son.” (Hebrews 1:1-2)

Jesus is the final and sufficient high priest:

“There were many priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.” (Hebrews 7:23-25)

Salvation is by grace through faith:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Who are these Christians on the street?

We come from all around the country. We come from many different churches, with a shared identity in Jesus and a shared gospel of grace.

We care about you.

The vast majority of us are here at our own expense. We want you to know the true Jesus of the Bible and the true gospel of free forgiveness in Christ.

Will you please talk with us? We are not your enemies. We are your neighbors and friends.

The Authority of Jesus Christ

For discussion:

1. How did Jesus exercise his authority in the Four Gospels?
2. What did the Roman officer understand about the authority of Jesus that many in Israel did not?
3. According to Matthew, how did Jesus send the apostles out?
4. According to the Book of Hebrews, Jesus upholds the universe by the ______ of his power.
5. According to the apostle Paul, we receive the Spirit by ______ with ______.
6. According to the apostle Paul, salvation is the ______ of God, not a result of ______.

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Jesus created the universe by the word of his power. “Let there be light...” (Genesis 1:3).

Jesus sustains the universe by the word of his power. “He upholds the universe by the word of his power.” (Hebrews 1:3)

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead with mere words. “Lazarus, come out!” (John 11:43)

Jesus reversed weather by his mere words. “Peace! Be still! And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm... And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’” (Mark 4:39,41)

Jesus forgave sins by his mere words. “Your sins are forgiven.” (Luke 5:20) The Pharisees rightly attributed this kind of raw authority to God alone:

“Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (5:21)

Jesus healed many times by mere words. “Pick up your bed and go home.” (Luke 5:24)

A Roman officer understood the true nature of Jesus’ authority:

“When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. “Turning to those who were following him, he said, ‘I tell you the truth, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel!’” (8:10)

So Jesus tells him, “Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened.” (8:13)

Jesus renamed the apostle Peter with mere words. He simply said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas.” (John 1:42)

Jesus expelled demons by mere words. Jesus simply tells the demons, “Go” (Matthew 8:32), and they... go. They are terrified of him. One word is enough.

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed.

“Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” (Matthew 8:8-9)

So how did Jesus authorize missionary work?

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

To those who truly know the authority of Jesus, his words are enough.

Those who believe the word of Jesus have eternal life. “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (John 5:24)

We receive the Spirit by hearing with faith. “Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ... Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness’?” (Galatians 3:2,5-6)