

The Faith of Jesus

The purpose of this study is to take a close look at the faith of Jesus Christ and how His faith affects our eternal life. There are only three places in Scripture that refers to the “faith of Christ” or the “faith of Jesus”.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Justified: G1344. from 1342; to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent: — free, justify(-ier), be righteous.

We cannot render or make ourselves righteous “by the works of the law”, we can only be made righteous by “the faith of Christ”, “the righteousness which is of God by faith”.

Philippians 3:9 And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

We are told that before Christ returns, there will be those who “keep the faith of Jesus” as manifested by, “they that keep the commandments of God”.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 14:14 which follows the above verse, speaks of the coming of Christ and the harvest of the saints.

Revelation 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

A Brief Look at Faith:

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance [assurance] of things hoped for, the evidence [proof] of things not seen.

In other words, faith makes things that haven't happened and that you can't see, real. Without this saving faith, will we be made righteous?

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

We know that there is a close connection between faith and believing.

Believing: G4100. from 4102; to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), i.e. credit; by implication, to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ): — believe(-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.

Not only do we need to “keep the faith *OF* Jesus”, but we need to have” faith *IN* Christ Jesus”.

Galatians 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

2Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

There are six principle ideas connected with faith in the Bible:

1. Faith is connecting with God's Word, believing in what He says.
2. Faith is connected with hope as seen in Hebrews 11:1. Faith makes what you hope for in the future, real now.
3. Faith does not just happen in your head, it is actively responding to God. It is not static but active.
4. Faith makes the invisible visible.
5. Faith makes the impossible possible. With God all things are possible.
6. Faith is always rewarded.

Let's take a closer look at these six ideas.

1. Faith is connecting with God's Word, believing in what He says.

Isaiah 55:10, 11 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11) So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. Faith is connected with hope as seen in Hebrews 11:1. Faith makes what you hope for in the future real now.

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

3. Faith does not just happen in your head, it is actively responding to God. It is not static but active.

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Notice the heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11 were all actively doing something.

- By faith Enoch **pleased** God
- By faith Abel **offered**
- By faith Noah **built**
- By faith Abraham **left**
- By faith Abraham **offered** Isaac
- By faith Moses **chose** affliction
- By faith Israel **compassed** Jericho
- By faith Rahab **received** the spies

4. Faith makes the invisible visible.

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he [Moses] forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible.

John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed [same word as faith].

Some say seeing is believing but the Bible teaches that believing is seeing.

5. Faith makes the impossible possible. With God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

6. Faith is always rewarded.

Speaking of Moses:

Hebrews 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Noah's reward? His life was saved. Abraham's reward? Fatherhood.

Faith Defined by Webster:

Consider this one definition of faith in the 1828 Noah Webster's Dictionary.

4. "Evangelical, justifying, or saving faith, is the assent of the mind to the truth of divine revelation, on the authority of God's testimony, accompanied with a cordial assent of the will or approbation of the heart; an entire confidence or trust in God's character and declarations, and in the character and doctrines of Christ, with an unreserved surrender of the will to His guidance, and dependence on His merits for salvation. In other words, that firm belief of God's testimony, and of the truth of the gospel, which influences the will, and leads to an entire reliance on Christ for salvation."

A closer look at Webster's definition:

- the assent of the mind to the truth of divine revelation, on the authority of God's testimony; (having arrived at the conclusion that the source can be implicitly trusted)
- accompanied with a cordial assent of the will or approbation of the heart; (gladly willing to lay hold of revealed truth)
- an entire confidence or trust in God's character and declarations; (willing to risk all for a trustworthy God)
- with an unreserved surrender of the will to His guidance; (completely willing to follow His direction and His principles)
- dependence on His merits for salvation; (entire reliance on Christ for salvation)
- In other words, that firm belief of God's testimony, and of the truth of the gospel, which influences the will and leads to an entire reliance on Christ for salvation.

Christ's Experience

What is the "Faith of Jesus?"

Before we take a look at Christ's experience of faith, let's take a moment to consider Cyrus, King of Persia.

How would you feel if someone showed you that you were named in the Bible and that 150 years or so prior to your birth it recorded your performing some apparently impossible, history-altering feat? Such was the case of Cyrus. It was foretold by the prophet Isaiah that Cyrus would decree the rebuilding of the temple by the Jews who were in captivity to Babylon, and that he would subdue the seemingly unconquerable stronghold of Babylon by drying up the river that flowed under the impregnable double-walls. Let's put ourselves in Cyrus's place. What would be your response? Would you at first be tempted to think that it was simply incredible, something not to be believed? Once convinced of the startling fact that it was speaking of you, and realizing what an incredible responsibility rests on you, would you then shrink from that awful sense of responsibility? After contemplating the pros and cons, humbly accepting the huge responsibility, would you then consider your weakness and seriously doubt your ability to accomplish such a feat?

By comparison, imagine, if you can, Christ's experience. Having studied the Scriptures and attended the first passover, where He observed the temple sacrifice, He was faced with the awakening that He was no ordinary human but that He was God's Son! He discovered His foretold mission and His responsibility to alter the destiny of humanity such that He would impact every soul on earth! Might He have wondered how He could fulfill such a destiny? Have we ever really considered the faith that it took for a tender child of 12 to grasp, much less shoulder such responsibility?

As He experienced rejection and persecution even from an early age, might He have been tempted to draw back from His mission and let those who persecuted Him reap what they had sown? Have we ever seriously contemplated the possible temptations of Christ as He grew in the knowledge of His destiny as Saviour of the world?

As a child Christ grew in knowledge and understanding as any child grows. When He was at the required age, He accompanied His parents to Jerusalem for the Passover. It was not until then that He began to see His mission as had been foretold in the sacrificial system given to the Hebrew nation.

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

How did He obtain a faith that placed "entire confidence" in the evidences given Him regarding His mission as Saviour of the world? What was His faith based on? On the Word of God. What Word? The Old Testament Scriptures were the only Word of God then existing. And what did He find in those Scriptures? The love of God; such a love as to draw Him into an abiding, trusting communion that resulted in an unreserved surrender to the will of His Father.

Let's revisit part of Webster's definition of faith. Was this not Christ's experience?

- the assent of the mind to the truth of divine revelation, on the authority of God's testimony,
- accompanied with a cordial assent of the will or approbation of the heart;
- an entire confidence or trust in God's character and declarations,
- with an unreserved surrender of the will to His guidance,

We often take Christ's experience of faith for granted. Christ discovered in His prayerful contemplation of God's character as revealed in the Old Testament, that unselfish love reigns as the supreme governing principle in the heart of His Father and all who would reflect His character. He apprehended that if He were to allow Himself to be

used to reveal such a love, lifted up on the cross for all to see, He would engage the greatest power in the universe for all who would embrace this love and exercise His faith, the faith of Jesus.

Christ was baptized by John the Baptist just before He started His public ministry. It was then that the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove and He heard His Father's voice saying,

...This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:17

Christ was driven into the wilderness to fast and pray for strength to accomplish His mission, and again, it is on the Word of God that He must rely as Satan takes opportunity to tempt Him. "Are you really the Son of God?" "What makes you think that you are the One of whom the Scriptures speak?" "Isn't that a bit presumptuous?" "Would God really treat His Son like this?" "If you are His Son, prove it. Exercise your power."

It had been revealed to Christ that He was the promised Messiah by both, the written and audible word of God. Satan certainly would not miss this opportunity to tempt Christ to doubt God's Word. Had Christ sinned, He could not have been our substitute and the plan of salvation would have been broken.

It was faith in selfless love, the core character of His Father as portrayed in the Word of God, that enabled Christ to be a victor over the temptations of Satan. He fully believed in the principles of His father's governing the universe. He understood that LOVE wins, and is the only principle that can save and sustain life and He acted on that faith.

How did Christ's faith relate to His keeping the commandments?

By the compelling power of faith and love as a result of meditating on the Word of God and being convinced of His Father's heart of love, Christ was able to please the Father and keep His commandments.

John 8:29 And He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.

Love is the motivating factor that enables the keeping of the commandments.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

Convinced of His Father's love, Jesus patterned His life according to what He witnessed of His Father's deeds. When tempted as we are, He exercised the same faith available to us, empowering Him to keep His commandments.

John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

What is the relationship between Christ's faith and His patience?

Patience: Strongs 5281. from 5278; cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy: — enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

His abiding, enduring relationship with His Father, faith in His Word, love for His Father's character, and love of His brethren, inspired Christ to embrace His destiny and make a full commitment, a full surrender to His mission of saving man from the power of sin.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that He should be received up, He stedfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

Set: G4741. from a presumed derivative of 2476 (like 4731); to set fast, i.e. (literally) to turn resolutely in a certain direction, or (figuratively) to confirm: — fix, (e-)stablish, stedfastly set, strengthen.

Though His flesh revulsed at the thought of being sacrificed, of the suffering of guilt, and of the separation from His Father, He was 100% committed to trusting His Father's judgment and will, even in the face of supreme suffering.

Matthew 26:39 And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Did Christ still exercise faith on the cross in the midst of superhuman suffering? Did faith in love, and in the Father of love, waiver when He could no longer feel His abiding presence?

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Though Christ could not see or feel His Father's presence, God was there and heard Him. Could you leave the side of your child in the midst of his greatest agony? It was all for us that the Father hid in the darkness as close to Christ as He dared, allowing Christ to prove the faith He had in His Father's plan to save us.

Hebrew 5:7 Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared;

Psalms 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry came before Him, even into His ears. 7) Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because He was wroth. 8) There went up a smoke out of His nostrils, and fire out of His mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. 9) He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under His feet. 10) And He rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, He did fly upon the wings of the wind. 11) He made darkness His secret place; His pavilion round about Him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

Christ, like Job, had come to the place where through faith He had implicit trust in His Father.

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him:

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, He gave up the ghost.

Our Experience

We have examined the “faith of Jesus” as a result of discovering and embracing the depth of His Father’s love. We’ve contemplated His discovering and accepting, by faith, that only He could reveal the fullness of that love. We’ve considered that due to His faith in that love, He believed that it would triumph in the salvation of man. We’ve shown how that faith produced such an abiding relationship that He did only that which pleased His Father and kept His commandments. We’ve seen how that faith and love produced an unreserved surrender and commitment to the selfless sacrifice for humanity. We’ve explored His steadfastness, His patient endurance to the point of death. We have seen and felt the love of the Father and Son for us.

Revelation tells us that the saints that go through the final crises of the mark of the beast keep the faith *OF* Jesus. How can we experience that faith? Is it essential to our salvation?

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

What is the “faith of Jesus?”

Before Christ “was made a little lower than the angels” (Hebrews 2:9), He and His Father had made a covenant, “a counsel of peace between them both” (Zechariah 6:13) to save man at any cost, even the cost of the cross (Philippians 2:8). He would take on “the likeness of sinful flesh” (Romans 8:3), “that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us” (Romans 8:4). He would partake of the human nature that we might “be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world from lust” (2Peter 1:4), “lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life” (1John 2:16).

Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8) But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2Corinthians 5:21 For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

It was when He first went to the temple services at 12 years old, that He realized who He was and what was His mission. Having so much faith in His Father’s plan, He suffered and “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15), that He might bring “many sons unto glory”.

Hebrews 2:10 For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, ...

Christ was convinced that He could save us amply and fully and entirely. Christ was familiar with the promise found in Isaiah regarding His travail and His satisfaction.

Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities.

Christ had faith in the word of God that He would be able “to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him”.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Do we have the “faith of Jesus”?

Jude 24 Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

He is faithful not only to justify us, but also to sanctify us.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Faith in the promises of God will have its effect in our lives.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

What is the difference between faith *in* Jesus and the faith *of* Jesus? Do we need both? There is a distinct difference. Faith *in* Christ connotes who you trust, while faith *of* Christ connotes sharing His faith. Christ had faith *in* the One whose Word revealed His character of selfless love, wherein resided the power to save us amply, fully and entirely. He also shared the faith *of* His Father, who believed that such a love could and would conquer sin.

Christ’s belief in the character of His Father’s love expressed the fullness of Webster’s description of faith: the assent of the mind to truth, the assent of the will, entire confidence, and unreserved surrender to and belief in that divine love.

Love is the agency through which God works to draw the heart to Him. It is the power by which He expels sin from the soul.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

What is the relationship between our experiencing the “faith of Jesus” and our keeping the commandments of God?

As Christ came to love and trust His Father, the fruits of such faith were produced and He was found doing always those things that pleased Him, keeping His commandments.

As our faith and love for God grows, we too will be found doing always those things that pleased Him, keeping His commandments.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

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

Inherent in every law is the principle of cause and effect and it is no different with the "law of faith."

Romans 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

The law of faith produces effects and those effects are called works.

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Genuine faith will be manifested in good works; for good works are the fruits of faith. As God works in the heart, and man surrenders his will to God, and cooperates with God, he works out in the life what God works in by the Holy Spirit, and there is harmony between the purpose of the heart and the practice of the life. Every sin must be renounced as the hateful thing that crucified the Lord of life and glory, and the believer must have a progressive experience by continually doing the works of Christ. It is by continual surrender of the will, by continual obedience, that the blessing of justification is retained.

The works produced by the law of faith are wrought by love.

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

What is the relationship between the "faith of Jesus" and the "patience of the saints?"

Above we learned that patience and endurance are the same thing. How will the saints endure unto the end?

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3) Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4) But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Matthew 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

1 Peter 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Is a servant greater than his master? If we hope to exercise the faith of Jesus can we exercise it any differently than Christ? Must we not also gain a knowledge of the selfless love of God in order to fully trust the principle of love? Only then can we render unreserved surrender of the will to His guidance, embracing our sonship through Christ, that the Father may say of us as well, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. 2) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

As Satan will no doubt tempt us to deny that we are accepted in the beloved and are sons of God, will we have the faith of Jesus to simply say....*It is written*....?

Are we so profoundly in love with Love, as revealed by the Father, Christ and their Word, that we no longer manifest anything but the faith of Jesus, that unselfish love flows out from us always toward friend and enemy, kin and stranger alike as we follow Christ's obedient, abiding example of unbroken communion with God? In our wilderness of temptation, in our weakest condition, will we also refuse to doubt who we are? Will we manifest the faith of Jesus in good times and hard times, passing through life's darkest hour yet bearing our cross with faith, having been quickened by His Spirit of selfless love. Will we manifest the faith that saves "amply and fully and entirely" from the power of sin, that others might also look and live?

Can we with the "faith of Jesus" say,

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Philippians 4:13

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. 2 Timothy 1:12

Do we have the faith to fulfill the desire of Christ that we take up His cross and follow Him?

Philippians 2:1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2) Fulfill ye my joy,...

...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,...Hebrews 12:2

Will the faith and love that we have acquired through communion with God and meditation on His Word strengthen us with endurance to be faithful unto death if it is to be our lot?

...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Revelation 2:10b

May God work in us the love, faith, commitment and patience that we may glorify the only One worthy of praise and glory and that His glory might fill the earth.

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

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