



THE FAITH OF JESUS

The Scriptures identifies the basis by which a person may be justified before God. “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by **the faith of Jesus Christ** Gal 2:16 Paul tells me how I can possess the righteousness of God. He urges me to 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.” Phil 3:9 In the last giving of the Gospel (Rev. 14:7) John saw a people, who, in the last days, were keeping the commandments of God and who possessed “**the faith of Jesus**” (Rev. 14:12).

The Greek word for “faith” in these passages is “*pistis*”(4102); it means more than just “trust”. Strong’s Bible dictionary defines *pistis* as: “persuasion... moral conviction (of religious truth...) especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; ... by extension, **the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself**”. In order for the Christian to be justified before God, in order for Him to possess His righteousness he must have the same “moral conviction” as Jesus. He must have the same “reliance upon God for salvation”, the same “system of religious truth” which Jesus possessed. Let’s study the Faith of Jesus by examining what Jesus believed and what He did.

Jesus Lived in Total Dependency on His Father: Jesus came to show each of us how to live in favor with God. The Bible teaches that man has no power of himself to live the victorious life John 15:5, so Jesus left us His personal example of living His life in total dependence on His Father. He did the Father’s will, performed His works, spoke His words and taught His doctrines. If we depend upon Jesus **just as** Jesus depended on His Father, we can live His life.

1) Who did Jesus say had sent Him on His life’s mission? John 8:42

Note: Jesus was sent to the earth on an assignment by His Father. He could truthfully say: “And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him. John 8:29

2) What words did Jesus use to communicate the fact that He placed His Father’s will and plans above His own? John 5:30

Note: Notice that Jesus said “As **I hear** I judge”. Day by day, moment by moment He inquired of His Father’s will through earnest prayer. As He heard God’s “voice” directing Him (Isa. 30:21) He surrendered and humbly followed it. This is what Jesus came from Heaven to do —the Father’s will John 6:38. We can only perform Jesus’ will if by God’s grace “self” is crucified Gal. 2:20, Rom. 6:6,7.

3) How did Jesus express the fact that He did His Father’s works? Copy John 9:4 below.

Note: The Father's works are the basis of our belief in Him John 10:37. How did Jesus know what the Father's works were? John 5:19 says "...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." As Jesus studied the Father's works in nature He discerned certain guiding principles that gave Him direction. He learned industry and foresight from the ants Pro. 6:6-8. He learned to work in groups and with his hands from the locusts and spiders Pro. 30:27,28 He learned to gather the young ones under His wings from the chickens Matt. 23:37.

4) Where did Jesus get the things which He spoke to the world? John 8:26,28

Note: Jesus answered many of the questions put to Him with "It is written...". His familiarity with the Scriptures enabled Him to speak His Father's words. We should pray that God will set a watch over our lips Psa. 141:3, that He would season our speech with salt Col. 4:6 so that the words which we utter will be the words that Jesus would have us say. As a general rule most of us should talk a lot less and listen more James 1:19.

5) What was Jesus response to the comment: "How knoweth this man letters, having never learned.?" John 7:16

Note: The comment the Jews had made didn't mean that Jesus was illiterate. They were wondering how He had mastered all of the profound doctrinal teachings, without ever attending any of the rabbinical schools. Jesus responded by declaring that He had not made up His own doctrine but that He had received it from His Father who had sent Him.

6) What was the one grand purpose in Jesus life? John 17:4

Note: The all-consuming purpose for which Jesus lived, was to bring glory to His Father. The Christian should live in such a way that every act of His life will work to give God glory. Self must be completely hidden. We must keep accepting every new assignment that Heaven gives to us day by day and year by year, until WE can say: "I have glorified Thee on earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do."

Jesus Life was one of Unbroken Intimacy with God. Jesus came to show us how those who are utterly helpless may receive assistance through maintaining a continual connection with God. Jesus said: The Father is with Me, He does not leave Me alone. He always hears Me. He is in Me, I am in Him, We are one.

7) What words did Jesus use in informing the Pharisees that God was with Him? John 8:29

Note: Jesus did not live His life independent of God. His every decision was for the purpose of pleasing His unseen Heavenly Companion. The Christian must always be careful to keep Jesus with them. In **one day** Joseph and Mary carelessly separated from the child Jesus, yet it took them **three days** to find Him Luke 2:43-49. In like manner, the Christian who carelessly loses their close walk with Christ, may have to spend several days (or even weeks) to recover that lost experience.

8) What short, but powerful phrase set forth the perfect union that Jesus enjoyed with His Father? Copy John 10:30 below.

Note: The unity Jesus enjoyed was not achieved by Jesus getting His Father to go along with His own ideas. Jesus was in perfect unity with His Father because He was in complete **submission** to His Father's will.

9) Jesus told those who followed Him that the miraculous works He performed (His Father's works) were proof of Their perfect union. What two expressions did Jesus use to describe Their perfect and total union? John 10:37,38

Note: Jesus declared that He was so close to His Father that He was **inside** His Father, and that His Father was **inside** of Him. You cannot get any closer than that. This union produced undeniable great works which Jesus called the people's attention to.

See John 14:10,11. When the redeemed see Jesus at the Second Coming they will possess this perfect union and oneness John 14:19,20.

10) At Lazarus' resurrection, what did Jesus say that showed that the lines of communication between He and His Father were always open? John 11:41,42

Note: Another arena in which Jesus and His Father were perfectly united was in Their communication. There was never any hint of estrangement that prevented the Father from hearing Jesus' petitions. Nothing muffled the gentle voice of the Father which spoke in Jesus' ear. We should silence every voices that would lead us away from the whispers of God's Spirit.

The Faith of Jesus was Anchored by a Knowledge of the Bible Prophecies: Part of the way that Jesus was able to maintain His unbroken connection with His Father was by keeping the words of Scripture in His mind. Eighteen times in the Gospel's Jesus said: "It is written..." His particular familiarity with the prophecies that applied to His experience prepared Him for all of Satan's attacks.

11) What words did Jesus use to comfort His disciples when He appeared unto them after His death and resurrection? Luke 24:44

Note: Jesus pointed His troubled disciples to what was written in the law of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms. He further went on to explain that though they had been shaken "It was written" that Christ was to suffer and to rise again the third day Luke 24:46,47. Jesus was careful to point His followers to the same prophecies of the OT that had been anchor to Him.

12) What were some of the details with which Christ was familiar concerning His betrayal and crucifixion? Psalms 41:9; Psalms 22:7,16, 18

Note: Jesus knew a great deal of detail concerning the great test of His life. He knew that one of His friends who ate bread with Him would betray Him. He knew He would be mocked and laughed at. He knew that His hands and feet would be pierced and that His clothing would be divided among His enemies. Rather than shaking His faith, when these events transpired, they actually **strengthened** Jesus. When facing death, Jesus knew He would be cut off from the land of the living (Isa 53:8) but some how, some way He would rise again.

13) What had the prophecies revealed would be successfully accomplish by His great sacrifice? Isa. 53:11

Note: Not only did the prophecies reveal the details of Jesus' suffering, but they provided the extremely valuable information of explaining the **purpose** of His trials and the certainty of their success. Christ knew that His life and death would make an end to sins and bring in everlasting righteousness Dan. 9:24. The Christian living in the last days should know what the prophecies say of the coming trials, their grand purpose and the certainty of the triumph of Christ and His kingdom.

Jesus Promises and Prayer that His Followers Share this Same Experience:

14) What example did Jesus point to in giving His disciples an explanation of how they were suppose to live? John 6:57

Note: Jesus said as "I live by the Father...even he shall live by Me." The same dependent relationship that Jesus had with His Father, we are to have with Him. We are to "eat" Christ; that means chew, swallow and digest His words (John 6:53,63) until His life becomes part of our being.

15) What expressions did Jesus use in His great intercessory prayer to convey that we are to share with Him, the same experience that He had with His Father? John 17: 22,23

Note: We are to “be one” with Jesus just as He was one with His Father. Jesus paralleled the two relationships in the expressions: “I in them” and “Thou in Me”. This was the burden of His prayer. When each member of the Church enters into this great spiritual unity with Christ, the Church will be made “perfect in one”. Before Jesus comes again this perfect unity will be achieved. This is one of the ways that the world will know that the Father did send Jesus into the world.