

## Sermon Having Faith In Jesus vs Having the Faith of Jesus Part 1

Preached at Cloverdale Jan/Feb 2023

Galatians 2:16 -20

Background: There was a controversy in the church and Paul was cleaning it up. The issue was some Jewish believers were requiring the Gentiles to come under the Mosaic Law in order to be in right standing with God. An example was requiring circumcision as a requirement for salvation. I know what it meant back then, but what can it mean for us as Gentiles today.

Let's see how Paul breaks down and helps us to understand how to be justified with God.

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

**Justified** = innocent or righteousness. To be in right standing with God.

We need to understand we can't be in right standing with God through our works and effort alone. It is only through our faith in Jesus Christ that we come into right standing. The work comes after, not before and that work is through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

**Works of the Law** – include our self-effort. For this congregation, it meant trying to obey the Mosaic Law as a means to be in right standing with God. The Law is not bad, we just can't use it for salvation because we can't keep it (James 2:10, Gal 3:10, Rom 3:20).

Still today, we cannot work our way into right standing with God. Yet still today some people may still try. Going to church alone, attending Bible study alone, doing good works alone will not put you in right standing with God.

If that were the case, we wouldn't need Jesus and we could save ourselves.

Paul says the way to salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ. By believing in Jesus.

**What is faith?** It is not a feeling or based on positive thinking alone.

Hebrews 11 – is clear. **Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

- Substance – assurance or confidence that what we need will be received.
- Faith is spiritual and not physical evidence. It is not the evidence that you can see or feel with your senses. It is not blind faith because there is spiritual evidence.
- Faith is based upon spiritual evidence because it is not based upon what you can see. If fact, if you can see it in the natural, it is no longer faith. Faith is seeing it in the spiritual realm before it is manifested in the physical world.

- Faith is the confidence of knowing it is done before it is actually received.
- What is this spiritual evidence? It is based upon the holy word of God. The Bible!
- The evidence is based upon the promises of God (Heb 6:18); the evidence is that He will perform it.
- Example: Ordering something online, getting in an elevator, crossing a bridge, sitting in a chair. I need greater faith to get on a Southwest flight. Recently I exercised faith with my motorcycle.
- Faith is not considering what I see in the natural. It may seem foolish in the natural, but makes perfect sense in the spiritual.

**Faith in Jesus.** So, if that is faith, what is it about Jesus that we need to believe in order to be in right standing with God?

Romans 10:8-11 – **<sup>8</sup>But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; <sup>9</sup>That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

**<sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup>For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

**<sup>12</sup>For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.**

**<sup>13</sup>For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. <sup>14</sup>How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?**

**<sup>17</sup>So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Acts 2:38, Mark 1:4, John preached repentance and baptism. This sums up the work of Christ on our behalf.

Let's follow these steps to believe in Jesus.

- Recognize Jesus is Lord and we need Him.
- Repent from trusting in ourselves and turn to Him.
- Believe in the resurrection and that we can have this same hope.
- Receive the Holy Spirit and let Him power your actions so we bring God glory.

These four steps cover the work of Christ for us.

- The cross
- The grave



- The resurrection
- The gift of the Holy Spirit as promised

**Don't rebuild what you just got delivered from**

**<sup>17</sup> "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! <sup>18</sup> For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. <sup>19</sup> For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

**<sup>21</sup> I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain."**

The importance of the Holy Spirit. It is a key part of this journey. We can't just believe in what Jesus did for us, and still be in sin and expect to remain in right standing with God.

He didn't go to the cross for us to not change, and He didn't die for us to go back and dig up what we put in the grave. If we have faith in His work, instead of building upon the past that you buried, you build upon a life in Christ that glorifies God.

If we started with believing in self-works for justification, then we sin if after trusting in Christ by faith, we go back to justification by works. We cannot seek union with Christ and at the same time resurrect things we had buried by faith originally. To pursue both is sin.

Christ doesn't justify us to go back.

Summary:

Believing in the work of Christ and having faith in His work for us alone is our salvation.

It is a process. Just follow the steps.

It is more than just the knowledge of the work of Christ, it is believing by faith and committing to the life.

Understanding and standing on the promises of God is the evidence needed for faith.

## Sermon Having Faith In Jesus vs Having the Faith of Jesus Part 2

Two versions. One says we need to have faith in Christ, the other we need to stand on the faith of Christ. Which one is correct and is there a difference?

The KJV states this passage slightly different.

**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.**

I believe in both. My faith is in Jesus and what He has done for me. My faith can also be in the faith of Jesus and what He has already done for me and what He is doing and going to do.

I have faith in Jesus now; I want the faith of Jesus.

Contrary to popular belief – you can have the faith of Christ.

### **What is the faith of Jesus?**

Jesus had faith when He came down to earth that He would be our deliverer. He had faith all the way to the cross; He had faith in the resurrection. He had faith in victory over death and the devil. He promises by faith His triumphant return. Jesus says it before it happens.

Has faith in the Father -- John 5:19 -- ...the Son can do nothing of himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

**Jesus had faith in the Father**, He had faith in what the Father does, He believed He could do the same thing – and do it in the manner like the Father does.

We can start out in our own faith and doubt and lose faith and not do things in the manner of the Father.

- Luke 24:44 – He believed in the plan of God for His life.
- He had faith that He was going to rise again after three days.
- John 14:10 – He had faith that He was in the Father and the Father was in Him.
- John 14:16 – He had faith that God would hear and answer His prayers.
  - John 11:25-26; 41-43

### **Jesus had faith in the word and promises of God.**

- Luke 24:27 – He believed in the scriptures.
- Luke 24:46-47 – He believed in the redemption of man
- Matthew 4 – Jesus repeats “It is written”.
  - When I go through tough times there is a difference between my faith in Him and having His faith.



I believe there is a difference. Repentant thief on the cross. Starts out believing in Jesus, later is standing on the faith of Jesus.

Faith in – I believe He will. Faith of Jesus – believe I can do what He did through His power in the same manner.

David's first football – faith in his father and promise; grow up to have my faith when you lose a job or have issues.

I have faith in what Jesus has done for me. I can have His faith in what's coming next.

His faith is greater than mine. I want faith in the Father like that; I want faith in the scripture and His promises like that....like Christ had/has.

I have faith, but I want faith like Christ. Let's see how we can get it next week.

## Sermon Having Faith In Jesus vs Having the Faith of Jesus Part 3

### Has faith in the prophesy and the Word of God

- Luke 24:25 – He believed and had faith in the prophets and prophecies.
- John 14:3 – He had faith that He would return again for us.
- John 13:32 – He had faith in bringing glory to the Father and being glorified.
- He has faith in the victory and Kingdom to come.

We are justified by believing in the faith that Jesus had which carried him to the cross, the grave, and to his glorious resurrection. That is the faith of Christ and when we believe in Him, this same faith is our faith now. What He believes becomes what we believe by faith.

### Has faith in us

- Luke 24:49 – He believed in the power of the Holy Spirit giving us power.
- John 14:11 – He believed in the works He performed through the Father.
- John 14:12 – He had faith in us doing great works when we believe in Him.
- John 14:13-18 – He had faith in God answering our prayers. See also Mark 11:23-24.
- John 14:26 – He had faith that more would be revealed to us.
- Luke 10:16-19 – He had faith that we would have authority through His name.
- John 15:5, 8

So, I think there is a difference between having faith in Jesus and trusting in the faith of Jesus.

### **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.**

I think we start out by believing in Christ and what He has done for us. But I think we can finish at a higher level of faith if we have His faith.

It is another level or greater faith. Jesus authors the beginning but takes us to a higher finish.

We start out with faith in Him.

When I first started to believe in Christ, I was like a baby. What do babies do? They cry out and expect others to do things for them.

That is still faith because I have faith that when I call upon Him that He will provide. But when I grow up in my faith, I'm no longer a child; I can start to do things myself through a greater faith.



How do we get this greater level of faith? What does it mean when I have His faith?

**<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

Therefore, as Christ is justified, we have faith that we are justified through His works and believing in this work.....his work, and not our work of self-righteousness.

I don't want to go back to doing it on my own again. If I do, I become a sinner again. I want to be dead to that life of sin that calls me back into it.

Dead but I'm still alive, but this must be a new life that I live. Not the same life where it was based upon my performance alone or what I could do. No, this is a new life powered by Christ who is alive in me.

What does it mean that Christ lives in me? He lives in me so what He has belongs to me. I have what He has. So, all the faith He has He now shares with me.

Phil 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ.

This new life that I now live in this same flesh, is now powered and I live and manage it through faith. Not just my faith, but my faith in the faith of the Son of God....who loved me and died for me.

Because of His faith, I believe in Him and live my life with this new knowledge.

What was the faith of Christ? His death, the promise of the resurrection and the faith that he would rise again and be glorified before it happened. That faith to know and believe and go through it with confidence and blessed assurance.

Faith in God? I ask. But if I have faith in Christ, I can do it. There's a difference between asking for something and doing it yourself.

The Benefits:

- You can speak things before it happens,
- Confidence replaces fear,
- Others can be encouraged to believe in Christ through the demonstration of your faith,
- Kingdom fruit happens.