

Live in the faith of Christ – Pt 1 The faith of Christ

We concluded our previous topic (walk in God's way) by establishing three points – (i) walk in faith, (ii) walk in love and (iii) walk in truth. A question from our previous topic – how do we walk in the faith of Christ? To answer this question we begin a new topic – “Live in the faith of Christ”, and this week we outline the characteristics of Jesus' faith, and establish – (1) Jesus trusted His Father to do what He asked, (2) Jesus' faith was tried when He was tempted of the devil, (3) Christ knew the will of His Father, and (4) He joyed in what was set before Him and endured the cross.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Jesus trusted His Father to do what He asked.

“Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matt.26: 53).

2. Jesus' faith was tried when He suffered being tempted of the devil.

“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil” (Matt.4: 1) c.f. – Heb.2:18 “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted”.

3. Christ knew the will of His Father and surrendered His will.

“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done (Lk.22: 43).

4. Jesus joyed in what was set before Him and endured the cross.

“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” (Heb.12: 2, 3)

“For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me” (Rom.15:3).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief... he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed...He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth” (Is.53:3–6).

Question to think about.

What are the characteristics of Jesus' faith?

Our answer from the scriptures.

He knew the will of His Father through prayer. In meekness He surrendered His will and was obedient to His Father – doing what was asked of Him in His time (John 7:8), suffering, and enduring afflictions regardless of the cost to himself, even unto death. Christ is our example of living by perfect unfeigned faith!

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Rom.15:4). Next week we consider how we can live by the faith of Christ who dwells in us (Rom.8: 9).