

Live by the faith of Christ – Pt 2 How?

In our previous study we established (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. In this study we establish four points – (i) the just shall live by faith, ii) the Spirit of Christ dwells in a Christian, iii) If the Spirit of Christ dwells in us then the body is crucified with Christ, and iv) the life we now live we live in the faith of Christ.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The just shall live by faith

"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith" (Gal.3:11).

2. The Spirit of Christ dwells in a Christian

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom.8: 9).

Christ lives in us – Gal.2: 20, therefore we have His faith in us. Our spirit testifies with His Spirit that we are the children of God.

3. If the Spirit of Christ be in us then the body is crucified with Christ.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." (Gal.2: 20).

4. The life that we now live in the flesh we live by the faith of Christ.

"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" (Gal.2: 20).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

When Karen and I were at BCNZ we had a visiting speaker come and share her experience of discerning the Lord's will for her life. It began when she presented herself before the Lord – prostrate in prayer, surrendering her will and seeking to know the will of the Lord.

Question to think about.

How do we live by the faith of Christ?

Our answer from the scriptures.

As established in our previous study – Christ had perfect faith. He perfectly crucified His flesh (was "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" – Heb.4: 15), He surrendered His own will and was perfectly obedient to His Father – even unto death (Lk.22: 41–44). If we seek to live **by the faith of Christ** (whose Spirit dwells in us) then we will need less of us and more of Christ, we need to –

- * crucify our flesh, mortify our members and die daily to the lust of the eyes, and
- * surrender our will to the Father, seek His will, and
- * obey the word of God.

In doing so our spirit will become more discerning of the Spirit of Christ.

For this theory to become practice – be encouraged to spend quality time with God in prayer and in His word! Amen!