

Will Our Father Find Faith in Us?

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We look at our coins—if you have a coin in your pocket, maybe it's been a long time since you've looked at it, but it says, "In God We Trust". Yet, as we all know, our nation is gradually becoming more and more secular and is moving away from any trust in their Creator. As a result of moving away from God Almighty, our national institutions are falling apart; it doesn't take anyone with a brain to figure out that our national institutions are indeed falling apart. The very thing that people put their trust in—educational system, healthcare system, financial systems—by all accounts are broken. Our country's governmental system is falling apart as we move away from Yehovah. As we saw—I couldn't stand to watch it—in the State of the Union address, it was obvious that we have a dysfunctional, divided government. People out in the audience yelling and heckling the President and the President yelling back—it looks like something you would find in the British Parliament where they go at it with each other.

We have in our government—it's no secret—we have corrupt leaders putting the self ahead of the country. We see that all the time. Even our country's religious institutions are cracking and are broken. We have the corruption of high-profile Protestant and Evangelical leaders. We have abuse of children in the Catholic church and the list just goes on and on. And even institutions within the church of God. The most recent—most monumental institution—within the greater church of God over the last 100 years was the Worldwide Church of God. The Worldwide Church of God as we know, no longer exists. At its peak there were over 200,000 members. Multiple millions of dollars in income, doing the Worldwide work on the radio, television and publications, three beautiful colleges and then Herbert W. Armstrong died and I can remember there were many people, ministers and members alike, saying Christ is going to come before Mr. Armstrong died. Christ and God wouldn't allow him to die until they returned. Well that didn't happen. Once he died, some very unconverted leaders came in to run the Worldwide Church of God and they rejected the Father; absolutely rejected him. The result was, the institution really no longer exists.

All the above institutions—all around us in our country and it certainly holds true in Canada and Australia—those institutions are cracking, those institutions are becoming secular, those institutions are falling apart, posing a daily trial for all of us as we watch it happen. All of those that the Father has called, we look at it and we know why—because they have walked away from God Almighty—but it's still our country and you look at it and grieve. It causes daily problems for us too as you watch a nation disintegrate and it causes problems that didn't exist 50 or 100 years ago. The world as we know, is turning to Satan. With that in mind let's go to 1 Peter 1:6. All of this disintegration of the society around us and the institutions and systems, create a great series of trials for us. As the world turns to Satan and becomes more Satanic, more secular and less God like.

1 Peter 1:6 *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold [the King James says temptations, the New King James uses trials and the Greek really means “trials”] temptations:*

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 honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (KJV)

The trial of our faith has an end result and that is a good result at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

8) Whom having not seen [none of us have seen Jesus Christ], ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing ... (KJV)

We do believe that He is the Son of God and walked this earth; He set us an example, He died and was resurrected to the right hand of God.

8 continued) ... ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9) Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. (KJV)

We see that our faith is being tried, but the end of that faith—if we hold fast—results in our salvation. Faith should be one of our prime foundations of our whole Christian life. One of the prime foundations. Notice Hebrews 6:1. You could argue all day whether Paul wrote Hebrews or whether somebody else did and that is unprovable from our vantage point these days, but the author of Hebrews is talking about faith being a foundation.

Hebrews 6:1 *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; (KJV)*

He's chiding them saying, *not laying again*—you don't have to go lay the foundation again, you've already done that, but notice what the foundation is.

1 continued) ... not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God ... (KJV)

God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. We know that one of the first scriptures we memorized when we came into the church—*whatsoever is not of faith, is sin*—we have to walk by faith; that's our foundation. That's Romans 14:23. We also know that faith is a *weightier matter of the law* and that's very important. Let's go to Matthew 23:23. We know chapter 23 of Matthew is Christ in front of the disciples, is railing on the Scribes and Pharisees and has some very unkind words for them because of their hypocrisy. Notice what Christ says to the Scribes and Pharisees.

Matthew 23:23 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law,*

The New Living translation says, *you have omitted the more important aspects of the law*. Then we are told what they are.

23 continued) ... judgment, [the Greek really means justice] mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. (KJV)

These scriptures are beginning to tell us the importance of our having faith. The fact is, we cannot please God without faith. If we don't have faith, we just can't please God Almighty. Notice Hebrews 11:6. Very clear and plain scripture; not fuzzy at all.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is ... (KJV)

We're going to talk about the word *believe* in just a minute and the third word in the verse, *faith*, we'll talk about in just a second.

6 continued) ... and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (KJV)

In other words, there is something more than death. There is something wonderful after death. The fact is, if we don't have faith, we cannot please our Father. If we can't please our Father, we're not going to be invited into His Kingdom, that's just a fact. In these last days, the Father is testing us and He is determining the faith of His children. He is testing the faith of His children; He is determining our level of faith through these tests. That leads to our title today.

Will Our Father Find Faith in Us?

We're going to cover that with five points today. As I mentioned in Hebrews 11:6, you see the word *faith* and you also see the word *believe*.

1. Let's look at the biblical definition of faith.

The word faith occurs 231 times in the Bible. Guess how many of those 231 times occur in the Old Testament? Just take a mental guess. 231 overall, how many in the Old Testament? Two; that tells you something. As we go through this, just keep that fact in mind.

Now let's go to Hebrews 11:1 out of the New International Version. It defines *faith*; this is the classic definition of *faith* in scripture.

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for [we hope for it but faith is a confidence that we will achieve it, it will be ours at some point] and assurance about what we do not see. (NIV)*

Things that are spiritual, assurance that God Almighty exists, that He has a Son who is sitting on His right hand. That the whole spiritual realm exists; assurance about what we do not see.

2) *This is what the ancients were commended for.*

3) *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (NIV)*

It was made from nothing and came into being. The Greek word for *faith* in verse 6 and here in verse 1 is Strong's #4102 and is the Greek word *pistis* and it's from #3982—not far away—and it means “assurance, persuasion”, or “belief”. The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates says this about this word:

Belief in the truth; it means that persuasion is not the outcome of imagination but is based on fact.

The belief that we have, that we call “faith” is based on fact, not on something we conjure up out of our imagination. The Greek word *believe* that was in verse 6—*must believe that He is*—is Strong's #4100. It's only two digits off from the one translated *faith* in the same verse. That is the Greek word *pisteuo* and from The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament, Zodhiates says it's from #4102, a derivative of the word that was translated *faith*. Notice what he says:

Of God; to believe in God; to trust in Him as able and willing to help and answer prayer.

You look at all the words where this is used and Zodhiates comes up with the conclusion as it applies to God, is “to believe in Him and trust in Him that He will help and answer us when we make an appeal to Him”.

Let me give you an example of that kind of trust. It involves our son Brit, who is now 53 years old. As a five-year-old child, one fall afternoon I took him to a farm where you can buy pumpkins and things like that—kids can run around. The big barn had a loading dock on it. It was probably 20x30 feet made of concrete and 8 feet tall, so a couple feet above me. He took off and ran up on the loading dock and was running around and got to the far end of the loading dock and saw me down below. He got this glint in his eye and I thought, “Oh no, I know what he is going to do”. He took off running at full speed across that loading dock, hit the edge, and jumped in midair like Superman—arms and legs out—and his dad is below and he just knew—no doubt, he had joy on his face, happiness, a smile—he knew without doubt his dad was going to catch him. I wasn't quite so sure because it sprang on me at a spur of the moment, but I caught him. I will never forget the joy on his face because he knew his dad was going to catch him and it was going to be okay. There was no doubt, but just pure joy that all was going to end well. To me that is the best definition of faith that I can think of. No doubt and joy that all is going to be well.

Closing out this first point about the definition of *faith*, we have to have that same kind of childlike faith in our Father and in His Son. No doubt, all is going to turn out well.

The second point regarding whether our Father will find faith in us.

2. Faith has to be accompanied by works.

It is not a standalone thing. Works spring from true faith. The Bible tells us if the works aren't there, that is not true faith. It's just an intellectual exercise. Look at James 2:17. James we know is the half-brother of Jesus Christ, so they grew up together. James as we know was the head of the Jerusalem church and gave his life for the truth.

James 2:17 *Even so faith, [very clear] if it hath not works, is dead, [it's a dead faith] being alone. [It's off by itself and has no relevance]*

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. (KJV)

My faith will be demonstrated by my works.

19) Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. (KJV)

They don't have the works. They believe God exists but they don't have the works.

20) But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22) Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

23) And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. (KJV)

Wouldn't we like to be called the *friend of God* at the end of the day?

24) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. (KJV)

The term *justified* means in "a state of cleanliness—not having your sins imputed to you". They have been washed and cleansed. Our Father, as I mentioned earlier, regularly causes or allows circumstances to test our faith—on a regular basis. It's not a one and done deal. There isn't one test and then you're done for the rest of your life. Our faith is tested sometimes on a daily basis. Let's go back to this ultimate test in Genesis 22, regarding Abraham. You talk about a test, if you have only one child and you know that you will receive promises of descendants being in number as the sand of the beaches and the stars of the heavens and you have one child and this happens to you.

Genesis 22:1 *And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt [the Hebrew means “to test” and most translations says that] Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.*

2) *And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. (KJV)*

Can you imagine that? Out of the clear blue sky—life is good, he has his son, he’s been talking with God and all of a sudden God says I want you do this. Talk about turning your life upside down—think about that. There’s no record of him questioning God, no record of him saying, “Can we discuss this, can we think about this, is there another way?” No, it just says:

3) *And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.*

4) *Then on the third day ... (KJV)*

Think about this, it’s a three-day journey, you’ve been giving this instruction, there is no indication that God is talking to you along the way—we’re not told that, maybe it happened, maybe it didn’t—the fact is, the last recorded time Yehovah talked to him He said, “I want you to kill your son and offer him for a burnt offering”—then no communication. But Abraham is doing as he was told. Can you imagine what is going through his mind and body? I’m sure he didn’t eat or sleep. I’m sure he had a knot in his stomach the whole time, thinking about what lay ahead.

4 continued) *... Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.*

5) *And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.*

6) *And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.*

7) *And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? (KJV)*

Abraham said something very, very important.

8) *And Abraham said, My son, God will provide ... (KJV)*

Just stop and think about that. He didn’t know how. I’m sure he went through all kinds of scenarios about how this would work out or could work out. All he knew is that somehow, someday, God would provide. He would provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering, so they went together. We know that Abraham had faith that somehow Yehovah would rectify the situation and provide for the needs of that sacrifice. He didn’t

know how. The question is, he had the faith—do we? If we were in a similar situation, would we? Would we have that kind of faith?

8 continued) ... himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

9) And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. (KJV)

It's clear that Isaac had to cooperate. He could have run off if he wanted to. Given their age difference he probably could have overpowered his father if he wanted to but he cooperated. That's a level of faith of Isaac in this situation.

10) And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

11) And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. (KJV)

I'm sure his hand was trembling at that point.

12) And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, [He didn't know before, Yehovah didn't know, this messenger didn't know but now they knew, this was a test of faith] seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

13) And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. (KJV)

So, we see that Yehovah did provide. Maybe not as Abraham thought He would but He did and Abraham had the faith that at the end of the day, God Almighty would provide.

14) And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. (KJV)

The Hebrew word for *Jehovah-jireh* is Strong's #3070 and it has an interesting definition that warms the heart. It's, "Yehovah will see to it". He will take care of it. Absolutely. Abraham, as James said, demonstrated his faith by his deeds. This was a test that was orchestrated entirely by God Almighty. This wasn't something that mankind brought; God brought it upon Abraham. Closing out this second point, our Father regularly tests our faith. We read it earlier in 1 Peter 1:7, *the trial of your faith, more precious than gold*. The end result is glory and honor at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

The third point, talking about if God is going to find faith, is Christ going to find faith, when They come back?

3. How can we grow in faith and have faith with works?

We're going to have three sub points here, A, B and C. The first thing we have to realize, and this is a common misconception, certainly in the early days of the Worldwide Church of God, faith is a gift.

3A. We have to realize that faith is a gift.

You can't work up faith on your own. It doesn't come from inside us, it is a gift from outside of us. Notice Ephesians 2:8, a very familiar scripture that is often quoted.

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (KJV)

If we could conjure up faith from ourselves then we could boast and brag about it. We see that both grace and faith are gifts from our Father. Grace being the Father's unmerited pardon and faith, as we're going to see, comes from Jesus Christ. We'll see that in a minute. Notice 1 Corinthians 12:1, Paul is talking about spiritual gifts because faith is not a physical gift, it is a spiritual gift. Paul is talking about spiritual gifts in the first verse.

1 Corinthians 12:1 *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. (KJV)*

I don't want you to misunderstand here. Verse 4.

4) Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. (KJV)

That gives those gifts—from the same Spirit. Verse 8.

8) For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9) To another faith by the same Spirit; (KJV)

It comes from the Spirit of God; it is a spiritual gift. Notice Romans 12:3. Faith is given to us, we don't earn it, we don't conjure it up inside of ourselves, it is a gift.

Romans 12:3 *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (KJV)*

God gives out a measure of faith to those He has called. Again, faith is a spiritual gift. But we have an important part to play in that gift. A very important part to play, which leads us to point B.

3B. We have to ask for faith.

Shame on us if we don't ask. Notice Matthew 7:7; Christ is giving us a spiritual concept and a spiritual point. It's not directly addressing faith but it is addressing answered prayer and it is addressing, obviously by extension, gifts that the Father bestows upon us.

Matthew 7:7 *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

8) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (KJV)

So, as I said, shame on us if we want more faith but never ask. There is a condition about our asking, as to whether or not it will be answered. That is, in order for the request to be answered and the gift to be given, we have to obey. That was covered in the sermonette by Gordon today, we have to obey. 1 John 3:22; I love John's writing because he just cuts to the chase. Very short and meaningful sentences and he says it very plainly.

1 John 3:22 *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. (KJV)*

Any father—those of us who are fathers—when a son or daughter comes and asks for something, it goes a lot better if that son or daughter was obedient. It goes a lot better if that son or daughter was doing things to please the father. It's no different with God Almighty. He will give us the gifts if we show Him by our works, by our deeds that we want to make Him happy, we want to please Him and we want to obey Him. So, we must ask for faith and it must be coupled with obedience.

The third sub point.

3C. We gain faith by hearing our Father's word.

It's so important in this age because we see and hear things and have access to information that no other society in the history of the world has ever had. We have access to so much information that it is overwhelming and there is a lot of garbage out there. There is a lot of falsehood out there. There are a lot of misleading things out there. But faith comes by hearing our Father's Word and nothing else. Let's go to Romans 10:17; this is what it says directly out of the New Revised Standard Version.

Romans 10:17 *So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. (NRSV)*

The King James and the New King James say, "word of God" in this. But most translations say the "word of Christ". If you look at an interlinear it says "word of Christ" not the "word of God". That ties, I think, back into the fact that there are only two mentions of faith in the Old Testament. Because Christ ushered in this whole concept of our having faith in our Father and having faith in the resurrection and having faith that

Christ lived the life He did—that's my opinion. Most people back then did not have their own scrolls. They had to hear the Word read. They went to the synagogue or the temple and that's why it says, "faith comes from hearing the word of God". We can study the word of God in our own homes on our own time. We can hear it electronically if we choose to do so. My point is, under this point C, faith does not come from hearing and listening to the world. That is a destructor of faith; to listen to the world will destroy our faith. If we focus on God's Word and that is our attention, it will build our faith. Closing out this third point, we have to do our part to grow in faith. We have to ask; we have to obey and we have to immerse ourselves in hearing God Almighty's Word.

Now the fourth point. This is where there's great misconception amongst certainly the Protestant community and differs from the churches of God.

4. It is the faith of Christ that can and will save us.

Not the faith *in* Christ, but the faith *of* Christ. We can't work up faith on our own. The faith we want to have, is the faith *of* Christ. The faith that Christ had. Let's see how the faith of Christ will lead us to salvation, go to Galatians 2:14. We're breaking into the context where Paul is challenging Peter for not eating with the Gentiles. When a Jewish contingent came down from Jerusalem, he withdrew himself from the Gentiles, stopped eating with them and went with the Jews.

Galatians 2:14 *But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel ... (KJV)*

What is the truth of the gospel? The truth is that God would call all nations before Him, therefore we should love all people as we love ourselves.

14 continued) ...I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? (KJV)

Meaning to be separate; why are you separating yourself from them? Jewish tradition had it back then that it was unlawful to have any dealings with Gentiles, much less eat with them. That was just anathema, you didn't do that. Verse 16 is out of the New King James.

16) 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. (NKJV)

So, there you have it. We are justified by faith in Christ according to the New King James version of verse 16. This belief sums up modern Protestantism. That we are justified, meaning not having our sin imputed to us just by believing in Christ. All they have to do is believe in Christ, that He came to the earth, He lived, He died and was

resurrected. That belief alone will save them—that is their belief. But does just believing in Christ justify anybody in God’s eyes? The answer is a resounding “No!” What are we told—we won’t turn there but Romans 2:13 says—*not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified*. It’s not just belief. We must have works that demonstrate our faith and our belief.

There’s a problem with Galatians 2:16. The interlinear I like to use is a computer based one at biblehub.com. The word “in” in this sentence—“faith in Christ”—just isn’t there. It doesn’t exist. The Greek words literally read, *justified by faith from Christ*. The New King James in this regard is a very poor translation. Let’s look at the King James version of verse 16.

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. (KJV)

So, the King James, the Wycliffe, the Berean Literal Bible, the Aramaic Bible in Plain English, Webster’s Bible Translation, Young’s Literal Translation all use the same word “of” rather than in. The New Revised Standard Version and the Holman Bible in their margins say “faith of Christ”. The Literal Standard Version says “faith from Christ”. Some people are going to say, faith in, faith of, what’s the big difference? What difference does it make? We’ve been there before when people say what difference does it make? It makes a lot of difference. They dismiss it as just semantics. But it is not; there is a huge difference. The faith of Christ is the faith Christ had when He walked this earth. The faith that Christ has right now. Since He and His Father make Their abode in us—we read it at Passover time, John 14, *We will come and make Our abode in you*—the faith that Christ has, His faith now resides in us. Because He and His Father reside in us through the Holy Spirit. This is a critical difference between faith in Christ and the faith of Jesus Christ. Notice verse 20.

20) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: (KJV)

That means, if He is living in us, His faith is in us.

20 continued) ... 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. (KJV)

Christ’s faith lives in us through the Holy Spirit. With that in mind let’s go to Galatians 5:22, talking about the fruits of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith ... (KJV)*

We see that faith is a fruit of the Spirit. Paul here, for the word *fruit*, doesn't use a Greek word that translates into *works*. He uses the Greek word *karpos*, Strong's #2590 and the literal meaning is "fruit as plucked". He's telling us that faith is a fruit of the Spirit, that grows and blossoms and ultimately gets plucked. The key is that spiritual fruit can't be grown on its own inside us apart from the Father and Son. Since faith is a fruit of the Spirit, it cannot grow on its own from a human. It just won't happen. It is a fruit of the Spirit, it is not a fruit of the flesh, it is not a work of the flesh. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, it cannot grow on its own inside a human. It takes the Holy Spirit in us to bear spiritual fruit. We can't conjure it up through will power. I've known countless people, when they get in a real problem—a health problem, financial problem or some other kind of problem—and they try to work up faith on their own. They are wringing their hands and it's almost like they are digging ditches to work up faith and it just doesn't happen that way. That's a lesson from Ancient Israel; they didn't have the heart or the spirit. Why is faith only mentioned twice in the Old Testament? They didn't have it—they couldn't have it.

If faith is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, it's something that we cannot have on our own as a human. We can't work it up on our own as a human. Even though billions of people have faith in Christ, it does not mean that they have the faith that God Almighty wants. There are billions out there who absolutely believe that Christ came to this earth, lived, died and was resurrected—they have the belief in that fact. But they cannot have true faith unless they have the Holy Spirit inside them because that is where faith comes from. It is a spiritual gift. We are not justified by faith in Christ, we are justified by the faith of Christ. The faith that Christ had in His Father when He walked this earth.

Remember when He said in the garden at Gethsemane, He knew what was going to happen, He helped design the human body and knew exactly what the pain level was going to be shortly. He said at the end of the day, Father whatever you want, that is what I will do. He knew the Father's will was perfect and He knew that if He obeyed, His Father's will would be lasting. If He did what He wanted which was to have the cup taken away from Him as a human, that wasn't going to work. The faith that Christ had when He walked this earth enabled Him to overcome the devil when He was tempted forty days and forty nights. Not to give in at the garden at Gethsemane that we just talked about, not to quit or give up when He was being beaten and scourged and crucified. Faith is indeed a gift from our Father but it is up to us to bear that fruit by calling on and exercising the Holy Spirit. We can't make it up on our own. If we have the Holy Spirit in us, if we have Christ's faith in us, then we can begin to use it and exercise it and begin to call on it. That's why Christ said what he did in John 5 so let's go there; John 5:19. The context is that Christ had just performed a miracle at the pool of Bethesda healing a man who had been lame for 38 years. A monster of a miracle and people could not gainsay Him or could not counter Him on that. So after that, we are in the context of that miracle.

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. (KJV)*

Continuing in verse 30)

30) I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. (KJV)

Christ is telling us that He can't do anything apart from the Father. It will fail if He goes rogue or goes on His own. He can't do anything apart from His Father. Similarly, we can do nothing of value apart from Jesus Christ; that's what He says. Let's go to John 15:1. Christ is talking to His disciples just a short period of time before His capture.

John 15:1 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

2) Every branch [and that is us as we will see, the Firstfruits, those called] in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4) Abide in me [stay with me; remember the Father and Christ abide in us], and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine [Christ is the vine, we are the branches]; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: [spiritual fruit and one of those is faith] for without me ye can do nothing.

6) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7) If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, [obviously it has to be according to God's will] and it shall be done unto you.

8) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (KJV)

The point is there is no amount of effort on the part of the branch that will cause fruit to be born. If that branch is separated from the vine. The branch has to be linked to the vine and then fruit can be born—very important principle. And as Christ could do nothing apart from His Father, we can do nothing of value apart from the Father and His Son. Therefore, to be the bride, what we have to do is seek to have the faith that Christ had when He walked this earth. If we have that kind of faith, we will be successful. If we do not, we will fail.

The fifth and last point.

5. Faith is necessary for us to endure to the end.

We have to have faith that our Father and His Son will keep Their promises. Remember Abraham had the faith. It looked pretty grim for a while but he had the faith that somehow, someday, Jehovah would keep His promise of his descendants. He didn't know how and couldn't see it down the road but he had that faith. So, faith is necessary

for us to endure and we have to have faith that the Father will keep His promises. What are those promises? Let's just look at three scriptures; you could have a whole sermon on that. Let's go to Isaiah 41:10, Yehovah is speaking here directly. What are the promises that we must have faith in?

Isaiah 41:10 *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: [don't doubt that I am with you] be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. (KJV)*

No matter what the circumstances we face going forward, we have to have absolute faith that God Almighty is with us, He will strengthen us, He will help us, He will uphold us. Notice what Christ said from a different perspective, same thing in Matthew 28:20. Christ gives us a promise and we have to have faith that is indeed a fact. Faith is based on fact.

Matthew 28:20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: [remember to receive faith as a gift we have to obey and we have to ask] and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (KJV)*

That applies obviously specifically to us. He will be with us, He will strengthen us, just as His Father strengthened Him when He was on this earth. He was attacked by the Jews, He was attacked by all their religious leaders and attacked by Satan and He had faith to sustain those attacks and His Father strengthened Him. He is telling us; "I am the same with you—I will be with you always."

The third one is, Hebrews 13:5. This is out of the New King James.

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (KJV)*

This is quoting Deuteronomy 31:6; Yehovah is saying *I will never leave you nor forsake you.*

6) *So, we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (KJV)*

Here, this is quoting Psalm 118:6. We see that our Father will never leave us, never forsake us and He is ready to help. But we have to ask and we have to obey. We have to always have faith in Him.

The fact is, looking forward from our vantage point in 2023—never thought we would be here in 2023—conditions are going to become so bad and deception is going to be so bad with our Father destroying everything physical that mankind puts his faith in. As I said in the introduction, mankind puts his faith in financial institutions, educational

systems, governments, local governments—mankind puts his faith in a lot of different things and our Father is, right before our eyes, removing those from society. So people look at those and they're crumbling right before our eyes. He is removing everything physical that mankind puts his trust in. The fact is, we have been called and we're going to need to have faith to endure all of this as it goes onward. We have to have faith to remain close to our Father and we have to have faith in the resurrection. If there is no resurrection, why are we here? Why are we doing this? We might as well go out and eat, drink and be happy—kick up your heels and have a good time. If we know and have faith in a resurrection, then all that we go through today—the trials we go through—are worth it.

Let's summarize now. Today we have seen a biblical definition of faith, we've seen the Bible tells us that faith has to be accompanied by works, it can't stand alone. We saw how we can grow in faith and have faith with works and we've seen that the faith of Christ is what can and will save us. Then lastly, we saw that faith is necessary to endure to the end.

We're told that the just—those who are justified, in a right standing with God, that have had their seven sins not imputed to them—shall live by faith. We won't turn there because we would just be repeating it, it occurs three times in the New Testament so it must be important. *The just shall live by faith*—Galatians 3:11, Romans 1:17, and Hebrews 10:38. We have to live by faith. It should be a part of everything we do every day. Faith that our Father exists and rewards those who diligently seek Him. Faith in the resurrection. Faith that His Word is true. Faith that the Father and Son live inside us. We will be required to walk by faith and not by sight. That is in 2 Corinthians 5:7. We walk by faith, not by sight and certainly in this world you cannot walk by sight because what you see is pure evil. We can't walk by what we see in this world. We have to walk by faith in what we do not see—that is the spiritual world of the Father and the Son and a spiritual resurrection and a spiritual eternal life.

Let's close with one scripture, 2 Corinthians 4:8, talking about faith. This is out of the NIV.

2 Corinthians 4:8 *We are hard pressed on every side [that's an apt description of the way we are today], but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9) persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10) We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. (NIV)*

We want to walk in His footsteps, we want to have His mind inside of us, we want to speak His words, we want to emulate His deeds.

*11) For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.
12) So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.*

13) *It is written: "I believed; therefore, I have spoken."* [quoting Psalm 116:10] *Since we have that same spirit of faith,* [faith is a spiritual matter and with the Father and Son living in us through the Holy Spirit we can have that same spirit of faith] *we also believe and therefore speak,* [due to that spirit of faith]
14) *because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.* (NIV)

Continuing in verse 16)

16) *Therefore, we do not lose heart.* [Because of our faith] *Though outwardly we are wasting away,* [as we get older that is very true] *yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*
17) *For our light and momentary troubles* [looking back in hindsight when we are resurrected, our trouble will be light and momentary] *are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* (NIV)

Far outweighs the trials and troubles.

18) *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary,* [here's the key] *but what is unseen is eternal.* (NIV)

Our current trials that we go through are for our benefit. They help us to grow in faith. Our Father brings trials to us—either causes them or allows them—to test our faith. To give us the opportunity to demonstrate our faith. So, our Father, when our time is up, will find faith in us. When He comes to the earth with His Son, He will find faith in those who are alive at this time. He will usher us all in to the Kingdom of God. As I started in the beginning, the quote on our coin, "In God We Trust", is truly, truly something we should make part of ourselves.