

Live by the faith of Christ Pt 2 The practical application in our life

This is our second teaching on the instruction to believers to live by the faith of Christ. In our previous study we covered three points- (i) Christ Jesus had perfect faith, (ii) the disciples had little faith, and (iii) there were those who had "great faith" and so were healed and saved. In this study we establish three points- (i) the Spirit of Christ dwells in those who believe the gospel of our salvation, (ii) we are to live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, (iii) the sons of God are led by the Spirit.

1. The Spirit of Christ dwells in those who believe the gospel of our salvation.

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise"- (Eph.1: 13) CF.- Rom.8: 9-10

[9] 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.

[10] And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

As a side note from last week's teaching- the Father dwelt in the Son

"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (Jn.14: 10).

We are each given a measure of faith- Rom.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".

Our faith can increase

"Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly" (2Cor.10:15)

The fruit of the Spirit (of Christ) that dwells in a believer, is faith

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

2. We are to live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit

[16] This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

[25] If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Gal.5:16, 25)

When we do so, we will not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (Gal.5: 16).

Hence, to NOT fulfil the lust of the flesh we are to- put on the Lord Jesus Christ- Rom.13:14- "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof".

From our first teaching we could summarise that Christ's whole life- He lived in the Spirit and He walked in the Spirit - which was evident in Him NOT fulfilling the lust of the flesh because He was without sin.

Let us never forget, that when we live in the Spirit we live by every word of God (which is spiritual)

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt.4: 4).

3. The sons of God are led of the Spirit

[12] Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

[13] For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

[14] For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (Rom.8:12-14)

"But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law" (Gal.5:18).

Illustration

My greatest battle has been with the flesh- wasting time. But when I learnt the truth of living by the faith of Christ. I began talking to the Lord about every little detail and when it came to wasting time- I could not utter the words- should I waste time Father? I simply did not, and moved on to being productive. That was not a singular occurrence. The goal is consistency in living by Christ's perfect faith each day, seeking His direction, His help, His wisdom and then doing! The faith developed in you is not your own, it is the fruit that the Spirit of Christ bears in you.

Questions

- i) How do we apply our three points and live by the faith of Christ?
- ii) What is the fruit of us applying this teaching, of living more by the faith of Christ?

Answers from the scriptures

i) First, we have the Spirit of Christ that dwells in us. Therefore, we have Christ's faith and His righteousness (which is imputed to us- Rom.4: 24). So let us revisit His example, His faith (from our first teaching), because the more we follow His example, the more we will out-work His faith.

* Jesus knew, and believed the scriptures

Let us read the scriptures, believe them, trust everyone of His promises as if they came from the Father (as they did). The more you trust every word of holy scripture, the more your trust in God will grow. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps.119: 105).

* Jesus prayed to the Father- Matt.26:39 "And he went a little further...and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt". Let us pray to the Father without ceasing- 1 Thes.5: 17- "Pray without ceasing".

When you ask for help, guidance with every step you take, you will know what it means to pray without ceasing. Because you will be talking to the Father about everything you do. And if, what you are about to do is plainly contrary to the scriptures (like stealing etc), you will find yourself not even asking, therefore not doing, therefore not fulfilling the lust of the flesh ("Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (Gal.5: 16).

* Jesus was led "of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil" (Matt.4:1).

Let us:

* wait, learn to discern the still small voice of the Spirit speaking- 1 Kgs19:12- "And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice".

* look for the Spirit to open doors - Acts 16:7- "After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not".

* Then: Go

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk.16: 15).

ii) The fruit of applying this teaching, and living more by the faith of Christ, is-

* The righteousness of God in us is more evident, it was the fruit of Christ's faith. We will become more Christ-like!!

* Obedience to our heavenly Father will be the fruit. Christ's faith was outworked in obedience! "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil.2:8).

Christ outworked His faith in His love for us, and giving Himself for us (conclusion of our verse). Let us do the same: let us live by the faith of Christ and love our brethren as Christ loved us, and let us give ourselves to the brethren (1 Cor.16: 15). Remember, sin will quench the Spirit of Christ from bearing fruit, so the more you persist in sin, the less fruit of the faith of Christ you bear.

Let us seek the Father for help to live by the faith of Christ, and so walk in the Spirit, live in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit, speaking with Him, and trusting Him in all we do.

Let us determine purpose in our heart (as Daniel did- not to defile himself before his God- Dan.1: 8)- to live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us! Amen!!