

Doctrine of the Faith of Jesus Christ

1. What is this faith that justifies and gives power to live a crucified life? It is not the faith of the believer *in* Christ, for the faith *of* Christ is in view.
 - *Galatians 2:16* Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, [Greek: *pisteôs Iêsou Christou*], 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.
 - *Galatians 2:20* 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.
 - *Romans 3:21* But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is ~~is~~ by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
 - *Philippians 3:9* And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:
 - *Revelation 14:12* Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.
2. A simple understanding of these verses would be that a person is to have faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.
3. Another understanding is that Jesus had faith, which was exercised by Him while He was here on earth and that is what the Scriptures refer to. Christ was justified by faith and not by works. His obedience to the Law was merely an obedience of faith, i.e., an expression of true faith, and that the Father justified Christ based on His faith in the Father.
4. To sort through the difference it must be noted that the command is given in numerous passages to exercise faith in Christ for salvation.
 - *John 1:12* But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.
 - *John 3:15* Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
 - *John 8:24* If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.
 - *Romans 9:33b* Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed

- *Romans 10:14 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?*

Special Note.

The word 'believe" (Greek: *pisteuô*), in all these verses, is the cognate verb of the noun 'faith" (Greek: *pistis*) as in the phrase 'faith of Jesus Christ." Therefore the principle of Scripture interpreting Scripture would demand that the ambiguous 'faith of Jesus Christ" be understood consistently as 'faith in Jesus Christ."

4. Did Jesus have faith? Of course He did.

- Jesus believed that He was the Son of God come to earth with a purpose. *Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*
- Jesus believed the Bible. *Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 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. 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*
- Jesus believed in the resurrection. *Matthew 20: 18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, 19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.*
- Jesus had faith in a prayer hearing God. *John 11:41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.*

- Jesus had faith in answered prayer. *John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*
 - Jesus had faith in God for He commanded others to have faith in Him. *Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*
 - Jesus had faith in His own divine power. *John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21 But he spake of the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.*
6. Did the faith of Christ justify Him or did God justify Him because He kept the Law? A balanced answer does not divide the two for both are needed in righteousness. As the Last Adam Jesus believed God's pronouncement of judgment upon sin unlike the first Adam and so He was moved to gospel obedience – unlike the First Adam
- *Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*
7. In the new birth the faith of Christ and the righteousness of Christ is imputed to the believer giving the capacity for gospel obedience and therefore justification based on belief of the truth and holiness of life.
- *1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*
 - *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.*
 - *2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*
 - *1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour.*
 - *1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*