The Faith of Christ

Faith comes from God and God’s Word is how we build up our faith into the most holy faith. We are not the authors of faith; Jesus Christ is. And, He is the perfecter of our faith which means He will do all He can to see our faith rewarded in the end. In doing so He has given us His Word, His Name and His Holy Spirit. We have all we need for our faith to be crowned.

I’m reminded of a game called Checkers. “King me!” You know what the goal is in that game; to have each piece ‘kinged’ so they are no longer limited. Moving to that end zone is how our faith should be. Once we are crowned we will have no limitations.

As I have been concerned for our children and grandchildren, as to what they are in for in the days ahead, the Holy Spirit has been helping me with this. Although Christ has given us promises for our children and grandchildren, this does not release us from our responsibility. For, just as Christ lays claim that He did not lose one that the Father gave Him, we have also been given precious souls from the Father to be a good example to – as we lead them to the truth about Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. And, for doing this – Christ has given us His Word, His indwelling Holy Spirit and His powerful Name. We have more in us and at work for us than we realize!

Mike and I are getting close to leaving this world and it is our one desire that we have done all we could to prepare our children to “keep the faith,” but what faith should they have and keep? As I said, we all come into this world with a *mustard seed faith* from God, and as a child it is easy for them to believe in God and to love His Word to them. Yes easy! This is why Jesus could say with authority and passion that we must “become like little children.” There are 3 reasons why Jesus taught this – which I understand out of what He said:

*“I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever* ***humbles himself*** *like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”* Matthew 18:3-4

*“I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and* ***revealed them to little children****. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.”* Matthew 11:25-26

*“Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,* ***for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these****. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’”* Luke 18:16-17

There has never been a man more humble than Jesus Christ. This is why we need to have ‘His’ faith as we go through our own trials, afflictions and grieves; so that we will not get angry or fearful; shrinking and cowering from what God has called us to do. The humility of Christ became our grace.

Mike and I have some grandchildren who from early on (when they could speak) would say the most amazing things; things that can not be known, seen or stated unless the Father had revealed it to them. They could not read the Bible yet. And, their parents (or anyone else) had not taught it to them. As Jesus revealed, this was our Father’s good pleasure to do so because how easily they believe in Him and are not afraid (yet) to say it (testify). Wow! Fear comes when they are threatened or made to feel ashamed. OH HOW THIS MAKES OUR FATHER VERY ANGRY.

Jesus said to his disciples: *“Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. So watch yourselves.”* Luke 17:1-3

The kind of sin Jesus was referring to is to prevent or hinder anyone, especially a little child full of faith and truth, from speaking what must be said, and what inwardly burns to go public. Freedom of speech is on the decline, and rapidly. There are some things that won’t be allowed to say or to teach because it is not “politically correct” today. This is the work of the devil to keep people under his control as he approaches his day in the sun as the last Anti-Christ in the world. God only gives him a few years to do it publicly because of how it will affect everything and everyone.

Jesus stated: *“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now — and never to be equaled again.* ***If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.****”* (Matthew 24:15-23) Who are the elect? They are the ones chosen to live in this time that will be hunted down and forced to deny Jesus Christ or be killed. There have always been martyrs but these martyrs won’t have any family or neighbors to help them; the mark of the beast will make this difference in the martyrs of the past and the martyrs of the Great Tribulation. The only help they will have is what the “Bride of Christ” leaves behind for them. We all will have loved ones left behind when our Bridegroom calls us up to meet Him in the clouds. Will God take care of them? Certainly, and through us!

To me, this is true love; that we consider these near future saints in the Great Tribulation, and prepare provision for them, even though many will be killed at some point. When the power of the Holy People is take from the earth, that is, the Spirit-filled Bride in the rapture, what she left in homes will become their provision and protection. The Holy Spirit will lead us in how and when to do this, but we must be listening to what the Spirit says to the Church; the wise and faithful church that is.

Faith in anything else but God and His Word is not faith, but self-deception. For, people say they have faith, but they don’t all believe the same about life and death. People take pride in their so-called faith because what they claim to believe – makes them feel and appear good and helpful, even noble. This is pride and self-deception, not true faith that comes from God and grows up into the most holy faith by the Word of God and His indwelling Spirit. Their self-deception (so-called faith) won’t be worth a thing when they stand before their Maker on the Day He judges everyone by their works and words.

The Lord told Ezekiel that he was responsible to tell people that if they did not turn from their evil ways they would be eternally punished for their rebellious pride. God told Ezekiel that if he did not warn the wicked or speak out to dissuade men from their evil ways they would not be saved from eternal doom; they would die for their own sinful rebellion against the Lord. If Ezekiel obeyed the Lord - He would not hold Ezekiel accountable for their blood. Then He told Ezekiel that if he did obey God to warn the wicked and the wicked did not turn from their evil ways, they will die for their own sin and rebellion, but Ezekiel will have saved himself by his obedience to God and their blood would not be on his head for being disobedient to the Lord God. (Ezekiel 3:16-21)

 Ezekiel, God’s messenger, was sent to Israel – the chosen people of God – to warn them. They were not “chosen” because of who ‘they’ were or are to this day, but because of who ‘God’ is: True and Faithful; true to His Word and faithful to His covenant. God chose a race of people not because they were different or better than others, but in order to reveal Himself; to reveal His grace and favor on some and to reveal His sovereignty and judgment to the rest.

Out of the book of Hebrews is this warning to everyone about true faith:

*“Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was God angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience….For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”* Hebrews 3:16-4:3

Jesus Christ brought pure and powerful faith to the earth. He is our perfect example of how to finish what we’ve each been called by God to do. Jesus Christ is also called the author and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) It is by Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him that we are healed of anything and everything. (Acts 3:16) We are to become like Him in faith and character. (John 1:12, 3:30,12:36; Romans 6:5-6; Ephesians 4:13; 1 John 3:2, 4:17)

He showed us how to use our God-given faith to serve our heavenly Father and complete our work; the work that accompanies our great salvation; the work that has been prepared for us each to do in our generation. This is why we are instructed to “test our faith,” and “judge our own hearts.” We are easily deceived and led astray. Like sheep we wander off, and we fall prey to the enemy because our heads are down, not paying attention to what’s going on, and our eyes are on the things we need and want in this life. All I have to say is, “THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT! I need YOU more than I realize. Forgive me for all the times I resist You and grieve You.”

 The Bible (God) teaches us that there is only one true faith and Jesus Christ displayed it fully in His lifetime on earth, without fault.

*“There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”* Ephesians 4:4-6

He passed His faith on to His disciples so they would also pass it on to the next generation, and they to the next, and so on. Jesus said to the Father as He prayed right before His arrest that all whom the Father had given Him – He would in no way lose; none except the one doomed to destruction: Judas the selected traitor of Jesus Christ. (John 17:11-12) That Jesus would in no way lose any of the first apostles that the Father gave Him – really spoke to me. As I began to meditate on this the Holy Spirit began to teach me about what that means. In a passage following this one Jesus is talking to His arresters:

*“‘If you are looking for me, then let these men go.’ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: ‘I have not lost one of those you gave me [Father].’”* John 18: 8-9

To lose one would mean they wouldn’t finish what they were called by Him to do on earth. If they were killed or prevented in any other way from finishing the race that God had marked out for them, then Jesus would have lost them. We are not only saved from Hell but we are saved from anything or anyone that would end our life before we had completed what is ours to do, that no one else can do.

Did you receive a task or assignment from God? If so, Jesus will defend you, protect you, empower you, guide you and bless you so that you are able to fulfill your purpose in Christ without fear or the lack of anything. All He needs from you is an active increasing faith and of course, your physical body. So, we need to take care of both; for we are responsible to keep both our body and our faith - strong and able with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Food for meditation and personal consideration: Is it possible for us to lose one of those that the Father gives to us? What would cause this to happen; to be the reason why a child of ours, or a friend, stumbles or falls away from the Lord? Jesus was very clear to His disciples that they better not be the reason. There are more than enough wicked people in the world that cause this, and that army is rapidly growing with each day as we near the coming of anti-Christ and the Day of the Lord that follows quickly. God will hold ‘leaders’ of His more responsible than their followers or students. Jesus was not merciful to God’s leaders when He called them “hypocrites,” “blind guides,” “snakes” and “brood of vipers.” (Matthew 23:13-33)

What Jesus said to His disciples (Matthew 23:1-12) defined what He meant by “losing” those that the Father has given. We can lose our children or any other that the Father has given us by being a hypocrite; not practicing what we preach. You know, “Do what I say – not as I do.” We can lose one by putting too much of a burden on them; too much responsibility that they are not ready for. We can lose one by looking down on them as less important; my interests are far more important than your interests; I’m over you so you have to do what I say. Don’t you know who I am? I’m important. I’m powerful, so treat me as so! We might not come right out and say it, but we think it. Jesus told His disciples and the crowd that they should obey what they preach as it is the Word of God, but not to do what they do. In a nutshell Jesus was telling them to obey God, not their leaders.

 In closing, I want to bring out the faith of Christ upon His arrest and death because this is the kind of faith we will need as we approach the time of the mark of the beast and all that will mean to Christians. When Jesus was arrested and brought before governor Pilate, the governor asked Jesus: *“Don’t you realize I have power to either free you or to crucify you?”* John 19:10

The same choice will be given us by the beast, or rather, by the system and powers thereof; that of being free to go about living like everyone else with the mark or being imprisoned and/or killed for refusing it. Are you prepared? Are your children prepared?

Jesus answered Pilate: *“You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”* Matthew 19:11

Jesus had won over Pilate but not the Jews that kept shouting for His arrest. They threatened Pilate with “political correctness” when they yelled: *“If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”*

We might ridicule and make fun of “political correctness,” but the truth is that it’s here to stay. Are you ready for the ‘evolution’ of it?

If we have the faith of Christ we will have confidence that all that can be done to us (and to our children) is only by the permission of our Father – if we are “in Christ.” And as Jesus warned, those who hand a “saint” over to the authorities to be threatened, ruined, arrested or killed – will be guilty of a greater sin. In saying this Jesus was sealing the curse upon God’s chosen people; a curse that would not be released until His return when, like Joseph, His brothers see Him as He is and was: the Savior of the world; the One they crucified. There are Jews today that see Him and know Him as their Savior, and it is my guess that when ‘that’ number reaches 144,000 (that are sealed by the Holy Spirit) we can expect those things to happen on the earth that are recorded in the book of Revelation chapters 7 on. But, this is only my opinion as to my study and meditation.

Beloved of Christ, we need to have the faith of Christ. We need to make our children and grandchildren ready with the same faith. Any other perspective, attitude or goal in life – is simply self-deception, not true faith. And believe me, our faith will be tested over and over, and not so that we will fail the testing but so that we will experience the growth of our faith: our most holy faith built, so that God can reward it. With just as much desire He has to save us, He waits to reward His sons and daughters for their faithfulness to the end.

In closing I want to repeat what Jesus and John each said:

Jesus said: *“The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.* ***Father, glorify your name!****”* John 12:25-28

John said by the same Spirit: *“Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.* ***Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully****.”* 2 John 7-9