

All Believers Do Not Have Faith

Text : **Luke 18:1-14**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Verse 8 of our text presents an interesting question :

1. **“When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”**
2. It is in the context of something we view as an expression of faith ... prayer.

B. Our Lord’s question brings our focus on things we know to be true, but about which we are hesitant to speak.

1. Proportionate to population, the number of those professing Christianity is dwindling.
2. More alarming, the number of those professing Christianity who have faith is dropping off even more rapidly.

C. Christians live on the frontlines of a spiritual war.

1. **Eph. 6: 11-12** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
2. We are warned to stay vigilant against Satan ... **our adversary.**
I Pet. 5: 8-9 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. (*Satan remains bent on our destruction.*)
3. In our generation Satan appears to be more successful than in the past.
 - a. God is being increasingly banished from public life.
 - b. Religious people are increasingly hesitant to speak up for God.

D. Satan has filled churches with those who have no faith.

1. **II Tim. 3: 1-5** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. **2** For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, **4** treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5** holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.
2. In every church we see those who claim faith, but who deny its power in their life.

Consequently, we must stay aware that we do not allow Satan to dilute our faith until it is little more than a cultural value.

I. We must remain aware that everything that is called faith is not really faith.

A. People can speak highly of Christ, but have no faith.

1. **John 3** ... Nicodemus came to Jesus at night to avoid being seen.
2. **John 19: 4-6** ... Pilate found Jesus innocent.
3. **John 7: 32, 45ff** ... Temple guards said of Jesus,
“Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.”

B. Anyone without faith can lead a moral life.

1. **Luke 18** ... The Pharisees in our text didn't do the sinful things common in society.
2. **Luke 18** ... The next context the “Rich Young Ruler” kept the Ten Commandments.

C. Those without faith can get excited over religion.

1. **Mark 4: 16-17** ... The seed on rocky soil received with joy, but fell when oppressed.
2. **Act 5** ... Ananias & Sapphira, had enough faith to sell, but not to turn loose.

D. Those without faith can have great sorry over sin.

1. **Matt. 27: 3ff** ... Judas regretted betraying Jesus and through his money.
2. Many caught in wickedness show great sorrow, but do not trust God's grace.

E. People can be baptized and active in the church, but have no faith.

1. **Act 8** ... Simon the sorcerer was baptized, but still thought in worldly terms.
2. He sought to make business with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (*not crucified self*)

F. There are those who actively serve God, but have no saving faith.

1. **Matt. 7: 21-23** ... They called themselves serving God.
2. They did things “for God” that others could not do. (*miracles, cast out demons*)

G. Obviously religious people do not always have faith.

1. When Satan can persuade people to settle for less than faith he wins.
2. When Satan succeeds in implanting enough faithless people dominate a church it is no longer a threat to him.

**Satan can creep into the church, even into it's leadership (Acts 20: 28-30)
But There are four things that Satan cannot do.**

II. Satan cannot produce within one who doesn't have faith a heart which is broken by sin.

- A. Read & Exegete ... **Psalm 51**
- B. Those without faith can discuss sin in the objective sense.
1. "Look how wicked the world has become ..."
 2. "What will become of the world if this continues ..."
- C. They may even admit some personal faults.
1. "I know I'm not perfect, but ..."
 2. They may even confess some sins before men, but they will not humble themselves before God and cry out for forgiveness.
- D. Those without faith will never acknowledge their sin and repent in humility before our holy God.
1. Repentance is "godly sorrow." (**II Cor. 7**)
 2. It is to humbly acknowledge that you have offended God.
 - a. It is submission without defense or excuse.
 - b. It is a call for mercy recognizing God would be correct/just in punishing you.
 3. "David .. **"My sin is ever before me."** Vs. 3
 - a. **Prov. 28: 13-** He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper.
 - b. **I John 1: 9-** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

III. A religious person without faith will never justify God in condemning him.

- A. **Psalm 51: 4-** Against You, You only, I have sinned
And done what is evil in Your sight,
So that You are justified when You speak
And blameless when You judge.
1. There can be no self-justification in faith. (*God alone is just.*)
 2. God is just in punishing us ... SO ... the cry of faith is for mercy, **not** justice.
- B. Peter demonstrates this principle.
1. **Luke 5: 8-** "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"
 2. This is the point at which Peter developed faith.

C. Many today claim faith, but treat God in an overly familiar way.

1. They treat Him more like their bowling buddy than like their Heavenly Father.
2. They have lost their proper respect for their earthly father, **SO ...**

D. Remember the Canaanite woman :

1. **Matt. 15: 21-28** Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. **22** And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and *began* to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed."
23 But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us." **24** But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." **25** But she came and *began* to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" **26** And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." **27** But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." **28** Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

2. Could you tell God ... "*I don't deserve forgiveness, but have mercy ...*"

*** Do we understand that the scriptures are teaching us that God shouldn't be associating with sinful people like you. You deserve nothing more than death.**

IV. A religious man without true faith will never bow to the sovereignty of God.**A. Psalm 51: 10- Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

1. It is not what you can do for God, but what He does for you.
2. Oh God, do for me what I cannot do for myself.
3. Man is unclean, condemned, and without ability to save himself.

B. We must beg God to do for us that which we cannot do for ourselves.**C. It seems to be within our nature to want to control our own lives.**

1. It is hard to turn total control of one's life over to another, **even God.**
2. Without faith **Matt. 6** (esp vs 33) is practically impossible.
3. Living in a democracy makes it even harder for Americans.

V. The religious person without faith can not trust Jesus alone for his salvation.

A. **Rev. 2: 10-** Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

1. The Lord says that the water is about to get rough, but don't jump out of the boat even if you dies there and I will give you eternal life. STAY IN THE BOAT.
2. No matter how bad life gets don't give up your faith.
3. Even if they kill your body, don't give up your faith.

B. **Our reward for not giving up our faith is Heaven.**

1. It is given as a gift.
2. We deserve death, **but** He is giving those filled with faith a gift .. **salvation.**
3. A gift cannot be earned. **It is accepted or rejected. FREE**

C. **Those without faith will react in one of two ways.**

1. They will view the gift as a license to sin.
 - a. **Rom. 6: 1ff**
 - b. Obeying rules won't save me so I'll just "party hardy."
2. They want to add something of their own to the mix.
 - a. Be good enough ... show God how much better you are than others.
 - b. Be more devout ... I read every day, I pray three times daily, I attend church
 - c. There is no one in this town who does more good for other than I do.

CONCLUSION :

- A. **If one is to be saved, he must have a living and transformative faith.**
- B. **Only faith will give one the ability to totally trust God / Christ to save him.**
- C. **Only faith will enable one to turn control of his life over completely to God.**
- D. **Only faith will enable one to face any storm (even death) with peace of heart.**
- E. **Faith in God will never disappoint ... *the rewards are certain & eternal***

INVITATION :

Have you put your full faith and trust in Jesus? Faith will change your life.

Lesson Text :

Luke 18: 1-14

Parables on Prayer

1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, **2** saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. **3** There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ **4** For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, **5** yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.’ ” **6** And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said; **7** now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? **8** “I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

The Pharisee and the Publican

9 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: **10** Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12** ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ **13** “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ **14** “I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”