

From the January 7, 2008 Issue

## **Jesus is Having Faith FOR US**

Because faith is such a prominent theme in the bible, and in life, you have undoubtedly wondered how you can have more faith! You have already experienced, in your short life, the positive and negative impacts of your believing! You are reading and things in *The Adopted Life* such as:

“God Loves You”,

“God Likes You”,

“God Loves You MORE than He Loves Himself!”

Maybe you have even thought to yourself, “I wish I could really believe that!” In other words, things like this sound so good to your soul! You want to believe so badly that they are true! With so many challenges in our daily lives, and the relational wrecks and moral messes everywhere, you wonder how you can REALLY embrace such Good News yourself, let alone share it with others, don’t you?! (I’ve been there, done that, and am only just learning not to worry so much about it anymore )

Here is a burden lifting answer from Jesus in the bible, spoken in the face of our fallen nature, circumstances and doubts: “Repent and Believe the Good News!”

Now, I can hear your objections already! “But that’s the problem Jesus! How do I believe, when I already realize that I don’t believe or trust as much as I want to?! I repented long ago at a revival service and received you as Lord and Savior and professed my belief in you. I stopped doing a few negative things like smoking, drinking, and cursing, BUT, I still find it hard to believe that you love me more than you love yourself, let alone everyone else in the whole world (including those nasty “evil” people!). What am I doing wrong?! I want to believe!!”

My personal experience leads me to say to you that you are probably misunderstanding what Jesus means by what he says about faith! So, my encouragement to you is to, **STOP TRYING TO HAVE FAITH IN YOUR FAITH!!! I REPEAT, STOP TRYING TO HAVE FAITH IN YOUR FAITH!”**

The biblical call to faith is NOT instruction for us to trust that we have enough faith or to try to measure our faith in anyway! Honestly, we simply CAN’T DO EITHER well at all!! That is the problem with a fallen nature - everything in it is FALLEN, including its faith!! We are like the man in Mark 9:24 who cries out with tears, “I believe; help my unbelief!” The biblical witness to faith is to have faith in Jesus! More specifically, we (YOU) are to trust that Jesus is having perfect trust and faith FOR US (YOU!) Faith is hardly a subject we are called to worry about! Do you see the difference between the two kinds of faith I am discussing?

The Holy Spirit was inspired the Apostle Paul to know (and share with us), a more appropriate view of faith in Gal 2:19, 20, where he writes, **“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.”** (KJ21 © 1994 by Deuel Enterprises, Inc)

**DO YOU SEE THAT????** Paul says, (translated into plain and modern English by me), “I died to the corrupt demands of my flesh when Jesus took the real me down in His death! Christ is REALLY living in me, even though I appear to be living only in myself! In this flesh, I now live trusting that Jesus is having faith for me, and I am no longer worrying about having more or enough faith! His faith is perfect on my behalf! He is my perfect human substitute. He loves me more than He loves Himself and is letting me rest while he shares the real me with the Father in the Spirit!”  
**(Check this passage out in The Message version, too!)**

When Jesus says “Repent and Believe the Good News”, He is saying **“Change your mind drastically, and believe the Good News about Me! I am believing for you, in you, and through you! Believe IN me! In other words, believe that you are believing in me, because in me you truly ARE believing perfectly!”**

Now that’s REAL, biblical faith, isn’t it?! It is the truth of Jesus sharing His ACTUAL Divine/Human faith with and for us, and His faith will give you rest and set you free like nothing else ever can! His faith will even allow you to live more peacefully with your doubts, anxieties, and worries (and even the doubts of others), because you know Jesus is standing in for us all! Can you imagine Jesus not having perfect faith before the Father? Me either!!! **It is in that thought that Jesus IS our Faith, our refreshing REST, and when our personal faith truly “explodes off the theological charts” and pleases the Triune God (Who is already pleased with us in Jesus!!!) Wooooo-Hoooo!!!**

~ Tim Brassell