

Faith Is A Continuous Act

The book of Acts lays strong emphasis upon the steadfastness of faith, as do the Pauline epistles and book of Hebrews, [Acts 2:42; 2 Peter 3:17].

Colossians 2:5 [New King James] *“For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.”*

The apostles conceived the Christian life to be a long and tough journey, requiring a lot of faith and determination.

Neither Jesus Christ nor His apostles taught the “*once-for-all finality*” of the act of believing so popular among evangelistic churches today.

Once a confession has been extracted from a seeker, a sense of victory seizes on everyone.

It is as if the fish has been landed, [Matthew 4:18-19] and safely stowed in the basket. The saving act has been performed and there remains nothing more to be done.

Romans 5:10 [New King James] *“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*

We are reconciled to God by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ **but** we are “*saved by His life.*”

Other scriptures expand on the path to salvation.

John 14:15-18 [New King James] *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”*

Jesus Christ is referring to the gift of the Holy Spirit which relates to Him living His life again in us; do not overlook the statement “dwells with you and will be in you,” two stages, the second is dependent on our response to the initial receiving of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:5-8 [New King James] *“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”*

Jesus Christ prepares His disciples for His return to the Father by explaining the work that the Holy Spirit would do in every human being whom the Father calls in each generation, [John 6:44].

Convict us of our sins that will lead us to humble repentance.

Show us true righteousness, that is the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, [Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24] not our own, [Isaiah 64:6].

Remind us of the judgement of Jesus Christ we all will eventually face, [2 Corinthians 5:10-12].

Faith is involved in every aspect of our reconciliation to God and salvation.

[Please download and meditate on the articles on this website under the main heading 'Holy Spirit' to have a clearer understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in each of us and our personal part in this process of salvation.]

Philippians 2:12-16 [New King James] *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.** Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or laboured in vain.”*

As we can see we all have an active part in this process of salvation. This is what is referred to in **John 14:17** *“will be in you.”*

Galatians 5:22-25 [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. **And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**”*

We have to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, so that the very essential *“fruits”* of the Holy Spirit will become ours; **that is the characteristics of the eternal Godhead.**

Without these characteristics developing within us we will not be accepted into the created family of God, [Kingdom of God, a family grown big], **and offered the gift of eternal life,** [Romans 6:23].

True faith is not an end, it is a means to an end. It is not a destination, it is a journey and the initial act of believing in Jesus Christ, His sacrifice, but also His teaching is a gate leading to a long road we are to travel with Jesus Christ, through the active presence of His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, in us, [Romans 8:9] **for the rest of our human physical life.**