

Can We Really Love Jesus Christ Whom We Have Not Seen?

1 Peter 1:8-9 [NIV] *“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

The apostle Peter who had seen Jesus Christ in the flesh with his own eyes, assures that every believing Christian can love their Saviour and live a life that will glorify Him even though we have not yet seen Him.

It is impossible to love someone we have not seen unless we have “*experienced*” them in some way.

Jesus Christ Himself had set His own stamp of approval and blessing upon all Christians who would believe in Him, never having seen Him in the flesh.

John 20:24-29 [NIV] *“Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord!’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.’ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.’ Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed; **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**”*

The belief that is without sight is called faith, and it is through faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done for all humanity that will bring us salvation. [Ephesians 2:8-9]

Hebrews 11:1 [Amplified Bible] *“Now faith is the assurance, the confirmation, the title-deed, of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality, faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.”*

True faith is faith without sight.

James 2:14-17 [NIV] *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? **In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**”*

True faith demands loving acts, and our love must be towards our Creator God first and then our fellow human beings. [Matthew 22:36-40]

I believe that God has ordained that we may actually know Jesus Christ now, and love Him more, never having seen Him, than Peter did when he saw Jesus Christ.

In our human race there are some unfortunate people who are born without the ability to hear and others without the great gift of sight.

Yet such people can still know and experience and appreciate relatives and friends, the ultimate example of this was Helen Keller who had the double handicap of no sight or hearing.

How can we “*experience*” those we have never seen or met?

There have been people who have come to love another person without meeting them, through correspondence. We begin to know a person through the things they write about themselves and their attitude towards certain situations. Such intimate knowledge can lead us to love such a person.

The Creator God has given us a record of the personal words and teaching of Jesus Christ in the gospel records of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We also have the response to that teaching and words of James, Peter, Jude and Paul.

Through study and meditation on these accounts we can “*experience*” the character of Jesus Christ and begin to love Him as a Saviour and Friend. [John 15:14-15]

Obedience to what Jesus Christ has taught all humanity is the starting point of our loving Him as a Saviour and Friend.

John 15:13 [NIV] *“Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”*

Jesus Christ has done this for us to rescue us from our deserved death, we should respond by also becoming a “*living sacrifice*.”

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

This is how we begin to love Jesus Christ as a response to the love He has shown us. [**1 John 4:19**]

No-one can do this unless the Holy Spirit in us is given opportunity to reveal Jesus Christ in their life, by re-educating them. [Romans 12:2]

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

We will need eternal life to fully know the love that God the Father and Jesus Christ have for each of us.

It is a wonderful facet of love that it always takes pleasure and delight in doing things that are pleasing to the One we love.

Also, it is always pleasant and delightful to praise someone we love.

On the physical level, as a grandfather I’m always eager to tell of the accomplishments of my children and grandchildren, and they know that I love them dearly.

A Christian who is coming to love Jesus Christ will find fulfilling His will is a great delight, also to let others know what He has done for all humanity through His sacrifice on the cross.

To tell all who will listen that Jesus Christ is also our Lord because it was through Him all we see and enjoy in this physical world, were created. [**John 1:1-3, 14**]

Also, it is Jesus Christ who sustains or holds together all the universe. [**Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3**]

Romans 1:20 [Amplified Bible] *“For ever since the creation of the world His [Jesus Christ’s] invisible nature and attributes, that is, His eternal power and divinity, have been made intelligible and clearly discernable in and through the things that have been made, His handiworks. So men are without excuse, altogether without any defence or justification.” [Psalms 19:1-6]*

Colossians 1:16 [NIV] *“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.”*

All the universe was created by Jesus Christ “for Him.” Don’t overlook these last two words, for Jesus Christ to reveal Himself to us and for us to rule with Him in the future world tomorrow, in an intimate relationship of the Christian Church being married to Him. [Revelation 19:7-9; Revelation 1:4-6; Revelation 5:9-10]

Because of this future relationship with Jesus Christ it is essential that we are developing a greater love for Him day by day.

We can be assured that we will find Jesus Christ everywhere in the pages of the Word of God, the Christian Bible, also in this great and wonderful universe that He created.

By meditating on both of these we can know Him more intimately and as a result love Him more dearly day by day.

Be warned: There is one being and his physical and spirit followers who will try their hardest to stop us from coming to know and love Jesus Christ, through the Holy scriptures and the physical creation.

2 Corinthians 4:4 [NIV] *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

The god of the world is Satan who is seeking to deceive the whole world. [Revelation 12:9] Satan will seek to stop us coming to know Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 [King James] *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”*

These servants of Satan are not only attacking the integrity of Jesus Christ as our Saviour but also on a more physical level by preaching evolution, a theory that does away with the need of a Creator. [Please download and study our articles under the heading of ‘Evolution’]

James 4:6-8 [NIV] *“But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*

If we daily draw near to God through study of His Word, the Christian Bible, and pray to Him, we will resist this influence of Satan, who is seeking to destroy the loving relationship we are developing with our Saviour and Lord.