

# Faith IN Christ vs the faith OF Christ

There is an article by Pastor Russell S. Miller of the Berean Bible Society in which he confidently states that the FAITH of Ephesians 2:8-9 is NOT the gift of God.

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9 AV)*

Once again I am compelled to disagree with a pastor of the Berean Bible Society – not for the sake of disagreeing but because their teaching does not align with my salvation experience or the scriptures.

*[PLEASE NOTE that the faith which the scriptures call the FAITH OF CHRIST is really CERTAINTY. Because Christ is God his faith is absolute knowledge and certainty. His faith only became something less than certainty for a short time when he took our sins upon himself and suffered the wrath due to us upon the cross.]*

*"And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34 AV)*

The faith OF Christ could be translated as, and should be understood as, the faith FROM Christ, just as the Spirit of God is the Spirit FROM God and the Spirit of Christ is the Spirit FROM Christ. The promise of the Holy Spirit is sent from the Father AND the Son (John 14:26; 16:7).

## BOTH FAITHS are required for salvation

WE MUST FIRST BELIEVE CHRIST IS RISEN. No argument with that.

*"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9 AV)*

We must also believe that God exists and that he rewards them that seek him.

*"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6 AV)*

But surely Pastor Miller does not think that HIS FAITH alone has the POWER TO SAVE? There are TWO faiths required for salvation – my belief in Christ and the faith of Christ.

1. I first truly believed when I conceded in my mind that a preacher I was arguing with may have been right in magnifying the office of Paul. By taking Paul seriously I was implicitly taking the Lord's resurrection, ascension and glorification seriously. I believed in my heart that God hath raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 10:9)

Paul's salvation and subsequent revelation all came from the Lord in his HEAVENLY ministry. To take Paul seriously is to TAKE THE RISEN AND GLORIFIED LORD SERIOUSLY.

2. The SPIRIT OF CHRIST then came into my heart bringing with him the righteousness of Christ and the FAITH OF CHRIST. I was saved (Romans 8:9).

I was saved by the GIFT of the FAITH OF CHRIST – a response from God to my own initial faith or belief. God RESPONDED to my faith with HIS faith.

Can you see the TWO FAITHS in the next scripture? "WE HAVE BELIEVED" is OUR FAITH. But WE ARE NOT JUSTIFIED BY OUR FAITH. We are JUSTIFIED BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST.

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, **but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed** in Jesus Christ, that we might be **justified by the faith of Christ**, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Galatians 2:16 AV)

And again in this scripture. THEM THAT BELIEVE is referring to OUR faith. BY FAITH OF JESUS CHRIST is referring to HIS faith.

" Even the righteousness of God which is by **faith of Jesus Christ** unto all and **upon all them that believe**: for there is no difference:" (Romans 3:22 AV)

"THE LORD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES". This widely used phrase is sometimes taken to mean that there is no help other than that which we provide ourselves – a subtle promotion of atheism. But if we take it at face value (rather than ironically) it is promoting the truth that those who embark on the venture of faith will be rewarded by God.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6 AV)

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." (James 4:8 AV)

If we are justified by something we have done then we have something to boast of. It is painful to be in the company of a self-justified "Christian".

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**" (Ephesians 2:8-9 AV)

Justification and all of the salvation process is a GIFT OF GOD.

"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." (Romans 8:30 AV)

HE predestinated. HE called. HE justified. HE glorified. SOLI DEO GLORIA – glory to GOD ALONE.

## Our belief is swamped and amplified by the FAITH OF CHRIST

Our initial faith is a sweet savour to heaven. But then heaven responds and our initial faith is SWAMPED AND AMPLIFIED by the FAITH OF CHRIST - the salvation power of the Holy Spirit. Our faith is JOINED to the faith of Christ.

"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." (1 Corinthians 6:17 AV)

Our mustard seed of faith gets the ball rolling but surely Pastor Miller does not believe that HE has the power to save himself? His own puny little deposit of human faith is multiplied a THOUSANDFOLD by God when he receives the GIFT of the SPIRIT OF CHRIST. The GIFT of the Spirit of Christ brings with him the GIFT of the FAITH OF CHRIST.

"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." (Galatians 2:20 AV)

It is like the government offering to match every dollar you save in your retirement plan with a thousand dollars. Such a generous government would be a wonderful thing. But our God is far more generous than that. He matches and multiplies our faith to such an extent that we receive the FAITH OF CHRIST and the POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17 AV)

"And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:" (Philippians 3:9 AV)

## Christ is declared the author and finisher of our faith

Could it be stated more clearly? WE are not the authors of our faith. Christ is.

"Looking unto Jesus **the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2 AV)

## Faith is declared a manifestation of the Spirit

We could not be called believers without a measure of faith. A believer is one that has faith. But faith would not be mentioned among the manifestations of the Spirit if it were entirely of our own making. All believers have a measure of faith but in some the measure is greater than in others and is counted as a manifested gift of the Spirit.

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; **To another faith by the same Spirit**; to another the gifts of healing by the

same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." (1 Corinthians 12:7-11 AV)

If the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, can also be called the SPIRIT OF CHRIST (Romans 8:9) then faith, as a gift of the Spirit, can correctly be called the FAITH OF CHRIST.

## Faith cometh by hearing the word of God

Any effort by us is excluded in the famous scripture that simply says "faith cometh". The faith that saves is not something we work up in our minds. We don't get the faith of God by any mental work to create faith for ourselves. Faith cometh, therefore the faith that saves is the faith that COMES by hearing the word of God.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17 AV)

The saving faith of Christ came to me at the moment I stopped arguing with a Pauline preacher and said to myself "maybe he's right". I had a willingness to repent of my old ideas. I opened my mind to new ideas, albeit after several minutes of hostile resistance on my part. At the moment I became willing to repent of my old ideas about "God, the bible and everything", the Spirit and faith of Christ suddenly came into my heart.

"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;" (2 Timothy 2:25 AV)

## He cannot deny himself

For several weeks after I was first saved my faith was very strong. There was such a radical change in the nature and power of my faith that I associated it with the arrival and ongoing presence of the Spirit. Paul also referred to this Holy Spirit of promise (with which we are sealed unto the day of redemption – Ephesians 1:13-14) as the SPIRIT OF CHRIST (Romans 8:9).

I discovered the scriptures that speak of the faith OF Christ and wondered at first if they were referring only to the extraordinary faith of the Lord during his earthly ministry – his faith and obedience unto torture and death. But we who are saved know that HE LIVES. We are members of his body. We are in him and his Spirit is within us.

So even if savage attacks from people (who claim to be Christ's) cause my own faith to give place to great doubt and sadness – nevertheless HE ABIDETH FAITHFUL.

"If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." (2 Timothy 2:13 AV)

The scriptures tell us that our relationship with the Lord is like a marriage.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." (Ephesians 5:31-32 AV)

If one member of a marriage union is rich and the other is poor, what happens? Obviously the poor member benefits greatly from the wealth of the rich member. Although I am sometimes poor in faith, the Spirit of Christ is always RICH IN FAITH. Death has no more dominion over him and he is seated far above all heavens; far above all principality and power; at the right hand of the Father.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me** ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 AV)

"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him." (Romans 6:9 AV)

"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:" (Ephesians 1:20-21 AV)

"He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)" (Ephesians 4:10 AV)

If we have the MIND OF CHRIST then we also have the FAITH OF CHRIST and it is this faith that saves us. This mind and FAITH OF CHRIST is a gift of God.  
HALLELUJAH!!!

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:16 AV)