

Each One Teach One Discipleship Lessons

Part One:

FAITH THAT LOOKS UP:

Establishing Your Faith in God

LESSON FOUR:

The GOAL of FAITH

In *Lesson One* we learned that we must have faith in order to be saved. In *Lessons Two* and *Three* we learned that faith must be **living** and **growing** to yield eternal fruit. In this lesson we will discover that the **goal** of faith is a **relationship** with the One who is the source of our faith! That relationship begins when we accept Jesus as our Savior, grows as we grow spiritually in this life, and will continue throughout eternity.

Many people who call themselves "Christian" have no idea of this very personal **relationship** with Jesus Christ. They believe they are Christians because they know **about** Christ, try to adopt a "Christian lifestyle" based on His teachings, and perform "religious activities" prescribed by their church and defined as "Christian."

There are even groups who want to somehow "Christianize" our government and society. They feel this can be accomplished by imposing Biblical standards on our social structures, enforcing "Christian behavior" on individuals. While such a project might yield some benefits, it will only be a surface transformation. **Real** Christianity is from the inside out, and a real Christian is one in whom Jesus dwells by the power of the Holy Spirit. A "Christianity" without faith in Jesus is "another gospel."

[I John 5:11-12]

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

[John 15:5]

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Our goal is not to "try to be like Jesus." Our goal is not to compile a list of all the Biblical commands (or the commands of a denomination!) and struggle to live up to them. Our goal is not to do good works to be "worthy" of heaven. Our goal is to enter into an intimate relationship with Jesus and "remain in Him." If we keep our eyes only on Him, all the other things **will** come to pass! We will become like him, we will live by His Word, we will do good works.

Looking only to Jesus and becoming one with Him is the GOAL OF FAITH.

[Ephesians 3:16-19]

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may _____ . And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the _____, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

***** Sometimes the Bible uses the term "to **know** Christ" as an expression of that intimate relationship. Many Americans have an illusion of "knowing" famous personalities because they see them so much on television and in movies, or read about the intimate details of their lives in "supermarket tabloids" like the *National Enquirer*. But to **know about** someone is **not** the same as **knowing** them!

KNOWING ABOUT



KNOWING!

Many religious people have an illusion of **knowing** Jesus, when they only know **about** Him from reading the Bible. They have not allowed Him to become an intimate part of their lives.

[Philippians 3:7-1]

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of _____ Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to _____ Christ and the power of his resurrection and the _____ in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

[John 17:3]

Now this is eternal life: that they may _____, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

***** Sometimes it seems discouraging that we cannot **see** Jesus in the physical as we can our human friends. How can we have a relationship with someone we can't see? It may seem to us that it must have been easier for those in the first century who actually saw him. But the scriptures promise us a special blessing for our faith that has not "come by sight."

[John 20:29]

Then Jesus told him [Thomas] "Because you have _____, you have believed; blessed are those who have _____ and yet have believed."

[I Peter 1:8-9]

Though you have _____, you love him; and even though you _____, 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.

[John 17:20-23]

"My prayer is not for them alone [the twelve apostles]. I pray also for those who _____ in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: _____ and _____. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and _____ even as you have loved me.

***** How can we **know** that we **know** him in this intimate way?

[I John 1:3-7]

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have _____ with us. And our _____ is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have _____ with him yet walk in the _____, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the _____, as he is in the light, we have _____ with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

[I John 2:3-6]

We know that we have come to know him if we _____. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he _____ is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone _____, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are _____: Whoever claims to live in him must _____.

***** Finally, how can we assure that we **continue** to **know** Him?

[II Peter 1:2-9]

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the _____ of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our

knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your _____ goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, _____. For if you possess these qualities in _____, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is _____ and _____, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

WE DON'T NEED RELIGION.

WE NEED A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

REVIEW:

1. The *goal of faith* is **not** a "Religious Life."
2. The *goal of faith* is **not** knowing *about* Jesus.
3. The *goal of faith* is *knowing* Jesus.
4. The *goal of faith* is **becoming one** with Jesus.
5. We **know** that we **know** Him **if** we *walk in the Light*.
6. We will bear much fruit **if** we *remain in* Him.

MEMORY VERSES:

LESSON FOUR MEMORY VERSES:

I John 5:11-12

**And this is the testimony:
God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in his son.**

**He who has the son has life;
he who does not have the son does not have life.**

John 15:5

**I am the vine; you are the branches.
If a man remains in me and I in him,
he will bear much fruit.
Apart from me you can do nothing.**

LESSONS ONE through THREE MEMORY VERSES:

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

James 2:26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why can't you "force" someone to be a Christian?

2. Why don't "religious works" make us a Christian?

3. Describe the difference between knowing ABOUT someone & KNOWING them.

4. What do you think Jesus meant when he said he was the vine and we are the branches?

5. Write John 5:11-12 from memory:

And this is the testimony

6. Write John 5:15 from memory:

I am the vine

7. Recite Heb. 11:6, Eph. 2:8-9, Eph. 2:10, Jam. 2:26, Jam. 1:22, Jam.1:2-4

(And without faith...)

(For it is by grace...)

(For we are God's workmanship...)

(As the body without the spirit...)

(Do not merely listen...)

(Consider it pure joy...)