

Sabbath School Lesson #8 – Having Faith – 16-22 May 2026

Christ would have us have faith. Faith is not blind credulity. Says the apostle: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence [ground, or confidence] of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). This is an inspired definition, and therefore we may conclude that the Lord does not expect us to exercise faith except on evidence. “Unto you therefore which believe He is precious” (1 Peter 2:7). “Precious” does not mean simply beloved, but valuable, costly. The precious metals are those that are the most valuable, as silver and gold. The preciousness of anything is in proportion to its value. Jesus is precious, because He is worth more than the entire universe. “In Him were all things created.” All things come from Him, and “in Him all things consist.” In Him “are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3. The riches of Christ are “unsearchable” (Ephesians 3:8). This does not mean simply that He has great wealth, but that He Himself is beyond all price. That the word “precious” is applied to Christ in its strict sense of costly, or valuable, is shown from 1 Peter 1:18-19: “Knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your father; but with precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, even the blood of Christ.” Compared with Christ’s blood, silver and gold have no value; they are but worthless trash.

Sunday: Just Give Me a Sign! – People even in Jesus’ time wanted a sign that Jesus was really God’s Son, even though they had received many signs. How did Jesus respond (see Mark 8:11-12)? We are told: “Tho Christ had given them evidence upon evidence of his divine power in healing the sick, in casting out devils, in opening the eyes of the blind, and in doing many mighty works, yet certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees came to him, and said: “Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas; for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Then he goes on to illustrate the manner of their unbelief, and the consequences that would come upon them. He said: “The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; because they repented at the preaching of Jonas, and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.” – {ST October 1, 1896, par. 6}.

Monday: Jesus Sees Our Faith – Compare how Jesus describes His disciples’ faith in Mark 4:40 with the faith of the woman in Matthew 15:21-28. “And He said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?” Is it, then, an evidence of no faith for men to be alarmed when their boat is filling with water in a boisterous sea? Yes, for the Lord was with them. They thought they were about to drown, and that the Lord was about to drown with them. And He seemed to pay no heed to His danger nor to theirs. They were thinking of themselves, but they had no conception of the Lord as other than themselves in such an extremity; no faith in His Divine mission and the power of His life. Faith would have said, “The Lord is with us. His is the power of an endless life, and His is a Divine mission in the world which no fury of the elements can cut short.” Their unbelief suggested that the Lord was as helpless as they. The lesson is for us. Whenever danger or trial comes we are to remember that God is alive. When circumstances would seem to overwhelm, and the enemy is raging, unbelief suggests that God is helpless, and that we must perish. But the believer who holds to the promises of God can no more perish than the Lord Himself. God has pledged His own existence that His promises shall not fail nor desert one in trial.

Tuesday: Faith Is Not a Feeling – Read Philippians 4:8-9; what specific actions are urged? We must be guided by the truth, and not by feelings or reasoning as many even Adventists do. Where feeling sees mountains, faith sees only molehills. Where faith sees only the arm of flesh, faith sees only the arm of God. Where the wisdom of man sees foolishness, faith sees the wisdom of God. Where feeling and reason see nothing but defeat, faith sees eternal victory. Where feeling and reason see only death, faith sees everlasting life. It makes all the difference in the world whether we share our course in accordance with

the evidence of the one, or the other. Faith sees nothing but truth. More than this; it sees nothing but that which is worth seeing. Paul said to his Philippian brethren, "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." These are just things that faith sees. So long as we direct our steps by eyes of faith, we shall walk in the paths of righteousness, but when we cease to walk by faith and begin to walk by sight, or by reason, or by feeling, we begin to go wrong, because we are guided merely by appearances and not by truth.

Wednesday: Examples of Faith – Read Hebrews 11; what lessons do you draw from the examples of faith in that chapter? Simply that from the beginning to the end, it is from "faith to faith," – faith in the beginning, and faith to the end, – "as it is written, The just shall live by faith." It was from Habakkuk 2:4 that Paul quoted Romans 1:17. Hebrews 11 refers to those who were faithful in the Old Testament; they all lived by faith, lived by the faith of Jesus. Paul goes back to the very beginning and cites an instance of saving faith. He says: "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous" (Hebrews 11:4). He says of Noah, also, that it was by faith that he built the ark to the saving of his house; "by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (verse 7). We say, their faith was in Christ, because it was faith unto salvation, and besides the name of Jesus "there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Thursday: The Faith of Jesus – Read Revelation 14:12; what does "the faith of Jesus" mean? It means having the life of Jesus, for the faith of Jesus is the life of Jesus, and the faith of Jesus cannot exist outside of Himself, thus He must live in us if we may live by His faith. Christ Himself living in us; "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27); God with us; God manifest in the flesh now, to-day in our flesh, by the faith of Jesus Christ — this and this only is living faith. For "every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is not of God; and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:2-4). Therefore, "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Are we saved by our faith or by the faith of Jesus Christ alone? Note what scripture say. In Galatians 2:16 we have literally, "the faith of Jesus Christ," just as in Revelation 14:12 we have "the faith of Jesus." He is the Author and Finisher of faith (Hebrews 12:2). God has "dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3), in giving Christ to every man. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17), and Christ is the Word of God. All things are of God. It is He who gives repentance and forgiveness of sins. There is, therefore, no opportunity for anyone to plead that his faith is weak. He may not have accepted and made use of the gift, but there is no such thing as 'weak faith.' A man may be 'weak in faith,' that is, may be afraid to depend on faith, but faith itself is as strong as the Word of God. There is no faith but the faith of Christ; everything else professing to be faith is a spurious article. Here is comfort. Whoever will accept the faith of Jesus, has that which is as sure to work righteousness in him, and to save him, as the victory of Christ over sin and death is assured. He gives to us His own tried and approved faith. It has not a flaw, and we need not fear to use it: it will not fail us in any contest. "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). We are saved by Christ's faith – it is His victorious experience and life as a Man that comforts the sinner (Hebrews 2:17-18). We are not exhorted to try to do as well as He did, or to try to exercise as much faith as He had, but simply to take His faith, let it work by love, and purify the heart.

It is "the faith of Jesus" that we are to have. Christ declared that He lived by faith in His Father (John 5:19, 30; 6:57; 8:28; 12:49). Thus, the works of God were manifest in Christ. We are to have the same faith of Jesus – this we can do only by having Christ living in us, exercising His own faith in us, and then we may say as Paul says: "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).