

Abiding in Jesus' Faith

Pastor Ron Susek
©Golden Quill Publications
12-4-11

Intro:

Did Jesus have to practice faith in God the same as you and me? Or, did he have an inside track with his Father that caused him to “wink” at his Father when seemingly doing something by faith?

If he had an advantage, then . . .

- He was unfair rebuking his disciples for lack of faith.
- He was not tempted in all points like as we.
 - Faith is one of the greatest areas of testing for you and me, but it would not have been for Jesus Christ.

Although Jesus came from the Father, he left his full glory with the Father in order enter the inglorious fullness of mankind.

Here he had no advantage over us when it comes to faith.

Vital: This does not mean that he became as pathetic as we often are with regard to faith, but rather that by abiding in Christ we can enlarge to his capacity of faith.

Note: Herein he has the right to rebuke us, as he did his disciples, for lack of faith.

Key: Faith is like muscle, it strengthens under resistance. Jesus had his faith severely tested. To abide in Christ then will be to likewise face the testing of faith.

Key: Jesus had to be fully human in order to in all ways identify with us. Also, he had to take on our struggle with faith in order to establish that faith can overcome all odds and bring glory to God the Father.

Text: John 15:1-11 (ESV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

1. To Abide is to have Our Faith Tested

Notes:

- Just as Jesus had to be tempted in all points like as we. We must likewise have our faith tested in all points like as he.
- Jesus' faith was tested to the brink when he cried out "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
 - Surely he knew the answer. If God did not forsake his Son on the cross then he would have to forsake those whom his Son came to save.
 - This explanation did not make the test any easier for Jesus than it does for us when dark hours come upon us.
 - We have slogans that are easy to say when we are seated in safety.
 - For instance: "I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future." That's an easy saying when we are on safe ground, but not so easy when all ground has eroded away.¹
- 1 Peter 1:3-9
 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you rejoice, though now **for a little while**, if necessary, you have been **grieved by various trials**,

7 so that the **tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ**.

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

9 **obtaining the outcome of your faith**, the salvation of your souls.

➤ **The Stakes are High!**

- Your salvation depended upon Jesus successfully passing the test of faith.
- Your faith produces much from testing
 - **Tested faith** proves to be genuine faith
 - **Tested faith** is more precious than gold
 - **Tested faith** brings praise to God
 - **Tested faith** glorifies God
 - **Tested faith** honors God
 - **Tested faith** that stands firm proves to be the faith required for salvation
 - **Tested Faith** is rewarded faith
 - **Note:** All of this will be seen at the revelation [or, coming] of Jesus Christ.

2. To Abide is to have Fruit-Bearing Faith

John 15:7-8

“**7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

Spiritual powers and authorities oppose the building of God’s kingdom. These powers are greater than flesh and blood. No man can overcome or stop them. Jesus, however, came to destroy the works of the devil. And that he did on the cross.

1 John 3:8-9

“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.**

9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

Notes:

- **To abide in Christ** is to be **in the One who destroyed** the works of the devil.
 - Jesus has destroyed the works of the devil in his abiding children and their desire is for righteousness.
 - **Ephesians 2:1-10**

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—
3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—
6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- **Jesus empowers [gives authority to] his abiding brethren** to carry out the destruction he established over the devil while on the cross

- **Colossians 1:21-23**

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now **reconciled** in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you **holy and blameless** and above reproach before him,

23 if indeed you **continue in the faith**, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Call to Action

Vital: **You potentially can have as much faith in this lifetime as Jesus had in his.**

It's not a feeling you work up, or a formula you say, but rather the result of abiding in Christ.

- **Umbilical Cord**
 - **Gain all life** from the mother
 - **Gain all faith from abiding in Christ**
- **Faith is a gift**—Developed by abiding

Final note: Only by waling the same path of faith that we must walk the Jesus could become the author and finisher of our faith.

Our struggle is much like the father whose son was delivered of an unclean spirit. He cried out, "**I believe, help my unbelief**" (Mark 9:24).

Notice that he is asking Jesus to do something he realized he could not do alone—develop complete faith!