

Faith In Jesus
by Travis Dean
November 21, 2009

I. Introduction

You may have noticed that there is no text for the scripture reading and no sermon title in the bulletin today. I'll explain what happened. Thursday afternoon I was preparing my sermon. I was half way through the manuscript when I suddenly got this horrible feeling. All the life in the sermon was gone. The Lord has given me a strong aversion to preaching on anything that doesn't grab me, and demand to be preached. I hate mediocrity and meaningless words. Well, I pushed my way through the rest of my manuscript. Later that evening I went back through everything from beginning to end. It seemed to all be meaningless information. I didn't sense God leading me to preach any of it. I had already started over on my sermon once this week, but Friday afternoon, I started over again. This third sermon has emerged from my experience this week. I would like to share with you what kept me from taking things into my own hands. I have done that before, when God seems to bail out on me. But this time by God's grace I didn't lose my faith. Oh, there was a struggle all right. But I chose to keep believing.

So, today, I will share with you what I have learned about Jesus Christ that sustains my faith.

Let's take a minute to review from last week. We learned three things about faith. **First**, we learned that faith is awakened by Jesus Christ. Seeing what He did for me on the cross, awakens a response of faith. **Second**, we learned that faith is awakened in the heart. Faith is not what we say we are. It is what we believe with our heart, on the inside. **Third**, we learned that faith fills the heart with humility. If all we have is knowledge, we will be filled with pride. But faith frees us from pride.

II. Biblical faith is in a person

(John 3:14-15) Snakes in wilderness. **Jesus** on cross. Faith is believing in Jesus Christ, not in the cross, not in anything going on at the cross.

III. 7 things that I have learned about Jesus Christ that sustains my faith in Him.

- A. **He is good. (1 John 1:5) (James 1:13-14)** He is not like me.
- B. **He knows me. (John 2:23-25)** (John 6:5-10) **PIC** "Philip, where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" "200 denarii" boy's lunch He knows what I can/cannot do
- C. **He loves me. (Ps. 103:13, 14) (Isaiah 49:15)** "pities" "**womb**" "cherish"
- D. **He is in charge. (1 Cor. 3:6-9)** Leave the results with Him; His work
- E. **He is always the same. (Mal. 3:6)** "metamorphosis" of a **frog**
- F. **He is dependable. (Heb. 11:11)** Sarah's faith faltered - Hagar
- G. **He honors my best. (Matt. 25:19-23) PIC** What I do with what I have.

IV. Conclusion

I have to be honest with you. I don't like it when God tests my faith. I wondered this week what God was doing. **(1)** He is finishing my faith. Hebrews 12:2. **(1 Pet. 1:7)** It's like **gold** refined in the fire. **(2)** God wants me to test my faith. (2 Cor. 13:5) "Test Yourselves" Talk to God about the times when my faith failed. See in every failure an opportunity. What is my

faith is built on? I want to be like **gold** that has been tried in the fire. I want a faith that will stand strong, and please Jesus Christ when He returns.