

**Do You Trust God
or Just Believe in Him?**

Luke 18:1-8

Luke 18:1-8

- “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, Get justice for me from my adversary. 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. 6 Then the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?

Do You Trust God or Just Believe in Him?

- Christians live on the frontlines of a spiritual war
 - Eph. 6:11-12 - “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”
- We are warned to stay vigilant against our Adversary
 - 1Peter 5:8-9 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

Do You Trust God or Just Believe in Him?

- The Adversary has filled churches with people who have no faith
 - 2Tim. 3:1-5 - “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves ... 4 lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power...”

Not Everything Called Faith Is Faith

- Anyone can speak highly of Jesus but have little or no faith.
 - John 3:1-2 - Nicodemus came to Jesus at night to avoid being seen.
 - John 19:4-6 - Pilate found Jesus innocent and sentenced Him to death.
 - John 7:32, 45-48 - The temple guards believed Jesus to be a great teacher, but later arrested Him in the Garden

Not Everything Called Faith Is Faith

- The apostles believed in Jesus, but they did not believe Jesus
 - Matt. 8:26 - But He said to them, Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?
 - Matt. 14:31 - “And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”
 - Matt. 16:8 - “But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?”

Not Everything Called Faith Is Faith

- Anyone can lead an apparently moral life without true faith
 - Luke 18:9-14 - The Pharisees didn't do sinful things common in their culture. They did good works
 - Luke 18:18-34 - The rich young ruler kept the Ten Commandments.

Not Everything Called Faith Is Faith

- Anyone can get excited over worship and religious works without true faith
 - Mark 4:16-17 - The seed sprouted on rocky soil and among the thorns, but did not survive over time
 - Act 5:1-11 - Ananias and Sapphira had enough faith to sell their property and give to the poor, but not enough to be honest.

Not Everything Called Faith Is Faith

- Anyone can have great sorrow over sin without true faith
 - Matt. 27:3 - Judas regretted betraying Jesus and returned the money
- Anyone can be baptized and active in a local church but not have true faith.
 - Acts 8:13, 20-21 - Simon the sorcerer was baptized, but still thought, spoke, and acted materialistically and worldly.

Not Everything Called Faith Is Faith

- Anyone can actively serve God but have no true, saving faith.
 - Matt. 7:21-23 - They did things others could not do (miracles, et al)

Not Everything Called Faith Is Faith

- Religious people do not always have true faith.
 - Acts 20:28-30 - “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”

True Faith Trusts God

- It doesn't merely believe in God; true faith is the conviction that God will keep His every word, and it labors trustingly to meet every condition God has set upon His promises.
- True faith and trust always begins in the heart of the believer. He doesn't work his way into believing; he believes his way into working.

True Faith Trusts God

- One with true faith unselfconsciously declares his sin and his need for God to save him
 - Psalm 51:9-10, 17, 19 - “Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me... For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart -- These, O God, You will not despise... 19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness...”

True Faith Trusts God

- Those without true faith and trust from the heart cannot discuss their sins objectively.
 - 2Cor. 7:10 - “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”
 - Prov. 28:13 - “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”
 - 1John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

True Faith Trusts God

- True faith and trust in God will never attempt to justify the self and blame God or others for his sins
 - Psalm 51:3-4 - “For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight-That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.”
 - Luke 5:8 - “When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

True Faith Trusts God

- True faith and trust always bow to God's sovereignty
 - Psalm 51:10 - "Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me."

True Faith Trusts God

- True faith and trust in God depend on Jesus alone for salvation
 - Rev. 2:10 - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
 - 2John 9 - “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”

True Faith Trusts God

- True faith and trust transform the believer; it does not try to transform the faith to fit the believer
 - Col. 3:9-10 - “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him”

True Faith Trusts God

- Rom. 1:16-17 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”
- Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

True Faith Trusts God

- 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
- 2Peter 1:3-4 - “As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

Do You Trust God or Just Believe in Him?

- True faith and trust make us into the sons of God bearing the visible and invisible image of God in this world.