

# Faith of Jesus

#0300

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 9, 1977

Isn't God good to brighten our lives with so many things that are beautiful? Beautiful flowers, beautiful music, and beautiful truth?

Our text this evening is Revelation 14:12. Now, this is the climax of the third angel's message. The threefold message of Revelation 14:6–12 is placed right in the heart of the book. Everything in the Book leads to these messages and flows from these messages. This is God's last call to the last generation. I wish you would repeat with me Revelation 14:12, together:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that  
keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”  
Revelation 14:12.

The 14<sup>th</sup> verse shows us Jesus coming on the clouds with all the angels; coming to reap the harvest of the earth. The people of God are represented as golden grain ready for the harvest. So when Christ comes, He will find His people prepared for His appearing.

Isn't it wonderful to be in the time when the harvest is getting ripe? Are you ripening up? Well, you are whether you know it or not. You're ripening up, you're maturing. Things are happening.

Notice in our text God calls His people saints. We don't call ourselves saints, but God calls His people saints. I'd rather God would call me a saint than for me to call myself one. But God says, “Here they are.”

“Here are they that keep the commandments of God,  
and the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:12.

Usually, when we quote this text, we're thinking about commandment-keeping, and this is good. Seventh-day Adventists should be known as those that champion the downtrodden law of God. God has given us that commission. Tonight, however, I would like to focus especially upon that last expression—“the faith of Jesus.”

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that  
keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”  
Revelation 14:12.

They keep God's commandments, and they keep the faith of Jesus. In order to keep something, first, you must have it. Is that right? Suppose I should say to you, “I wish you could keep a million dollars this next week.” Are any of you able to

do that? I doubt it. You have to have something before you can keep it. So this tells me that the remnant have the faith of Jesus. I wonder where they got it? Well, they got it from Him, because it's the faith of Jesus; not something we originate. It's *His* faith, a gift from Him.

The poorest man in the world can get a gift. You don't have to be rich to get a gift. And faith is a gift. It's a gift from Jesus. Like all the gifts that Jesus gives to us, this gift is found only in receiving Him. He does not give it apart from Himself. He doesn't take it like you would a book and just hand it to somebody, and they can have the book but not have You. No. The only way we can have the faith of Jesus is to have Jesus. Jesus offers Himself to every one of His children.

Have you received Him? If you have, then you have the faith of Jesus, and what a wonderful gift that is. We shall need it in the days ahead. We need it right now.

Let's look a little further at this expression, "the faith of Jesus." What is faith anyway? Faith includes not only belief but trust. Let's look first at that expression of "belief." The faith of Jesus would include believing what Jesus believes, wouldn't it? If I have the faith of Jesus, I'll believe what Jesus believes. If He believes one thing and I believe something else contradictory, whatever faith I have isn't the faith of Jesus, is it? No. The faith of Jesus then must include believing about things exactly as He believes.

When Christ was speaking 2,000 years ago, He asked a significant question: "When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?"—indicating that faith would be a rare article in the last generation. It is, friends. Doubt, unbelief, skepticism, atheism, and infidelity are rampant. Modernism and higher criticism have stolen the simple faith away from multitudes. Very few really believe what Jesus believes.

How can you tell whether you have faith or not? The test of your faith is on a point where you don't see a reason for it. If you see the reason for it, you do not need faith; you have reason.

We go out tonight and I point to the heavens and say, "See the stars up there." You look up and see the stars. You don't have to take my word for it that the stars are shining. You see them for yourselves. I might illustrate it with many things. There are many things in the Bible that appeal to our reason. We look at the law of God. We look at the commandment, "Thou shall not kill," or "Thou shall not steal."

That appeals to our reason as being a sensible thing, doesn't it? Wouldn't you hate to live in a world where everybody was a murderer or everybody was a thief? What we really desire is to live in a world where nobody kills, or nobody steals. It appeals to our sense of the fitness of things.

But faith operates in a realm beyond what may seem reasonable. Faith enables us to believe what God says just because He says it.

This was the faith of Abraham. God told Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude. Both he and his wife were beyond the ordinary age of having children. But in His own time and in His own way, God fulfilled His promise. Meanwhile, Abraham developed faith. He believed God, the Bible says, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

So whenever you believe what Jesus says just because He says so, that's faith. The faith of Jesus is to believe everything that God says.

I wonder how can we tell what Jesus believes. In the book of Revelation, Christ is called the faithful and true Witness. If we listen to Him speak, we'll find out what He believes. The True Witness tells exactly what he believes, doesn't he? He tells the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth as He sees it, and Jesus sees the whole picture. This is why when we study the Bible, faith is generated.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" Romans 10:17.

When I study the Bible, I hear Jesus speaking. From Genesis to Revelation, Christ, through His prophets, is speaking to my heart, and He's telling me what He believes. He's telling me the truth, for He is the truth, John 14:6.

When I read the Bible, I can put my hand on it and say, "Lord, I believe." That is faith. And the more I study the Bible, the more I find out what Jesus believes. And as I believe it, I have more and more faith.

Suppose I come to something in the Bible that's different from what I believed before. What do I do? If I have faith, I change *my* belief to harmonize with *His* belief, because I have the faith of Jesus. How many of you once didn't know that the seventh day is the Sabbath, and you found out that's what Jesus said, and you started to believe it? Are you happy? How did you come to that point? You came by accepting the faith of Jesus; whether you worded it this way or not, you said, "Dear Lord, I didn't know this, but if that's what You believe, that's what I believe, because I want to believe just what You believe." Isn't that simple?

Is that the only thing that Jesus has to tell us that we are to accept by faith? Why, no. The Sabbath is a sign of our faith. Do you know why the Sabbath is a special sign? Because the Sabbath is, in a way, the commandment of all others that appeals to faith. What I mean by that is that many of the commandments appeal to our reason. We see the reason for not killing and stealing and so forth. But the only way on earth that we'll ever know that the seventh day is the Sabbath, and that there's a special blessing in it, is just to believe it because Jesus says so, that's all.

Men that argue and reason about it say, "Oh, well, of course it's probably a good thing for people to have a rest day, but it doesn't make any difference whether you rest on Wednesday or Saturday or Sunday or Monday or whatever. Just take off every now and then. If you want a day of worship, whatever the majority use, that's all right.

All that is human reason and it makes sense, doesn't it, if you're just going to depend on human reason. But if you're going to go by faith, then you're going to go with what Jesus believes, and Jesus believes that the seventh day is the Sabbath. How do I know He believes that? Because He says so. From one end of the Bible to the other, that's the only day He ever blessed, the only day He ever sanctified, the only day He commanded man to keep. Is that correct? That's it. So if I have the faith of Jesus, I'll believe what He believes about that, but so with every other point of truth.

So as I keep studying, as I keep reading the Bible, my faith grows as more and more I come to understand what He believes. And when I find out what He believes, I say, "Lord, I believe that too. That's faith, and I have the faith of Jesus." Oh, I'm so glad for that. What do you say?

Those that our text is talking about are Bible students. You can see that they would need to be. How unreasonable it would be, how utterly without logic to say, "I have faith in Jesus, but I don't know what He says." How can you have the faith of Jesus unless you know what He believes; how can you know what to believe unless you know what He believes? You can't. So God's people will be earnest students of the Word, digging into the Bible to know what Jesus says.

Now in this last generation, Christ, knowing the special problems that would be met in this faithless age, has promised a special manifestation of a special gift. Revelation 12:17—I want you to repeat that with me. Here you'll find another description of the same group of people mentioned in our text. Revelation 12:17 is another photograph of them, and it looks very much like the one in Revelation 14:12.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17.

The dragon, of course, is the Devil, and the woman is the church, and the remnant are the last. And just like the ones in Revelation 14:12, they keep something. What do they keep? The commandments of God. And they have something. What do they have? They have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Look at that word "testimony." What is a testimony? Something that somebody testifies; something that somebody says. Were you ever a witness in court? How many of you've been a witness? I was once years ago. I had to hold my hand up and swear that I would tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The attorneys ask me some questions, and I told them what I knew, and that was my testimony, you understand.

Here is a church down here in the last days that has the testimony of Jesus Christ; would that be pretty good testimony? Would He be a good one to testify as to what He believes? Can you think of any better way to find out what Jesus believes than to ask Him—to let Him speak? Don't you think He could tell us better than any human being could tell us?

All the preachers in the world couldn't tell us what Jesus believes as accurately as He can tell us Himself. Would you agree with me? Sometimes people get worried because the great theologians of the great popular churches don't see this truth. Truth is ours as we listen to what *Jesus* says. It isn't what some great professor thinks; it's what Jesus says. And here is a church that has the testimony of Jesus Christ.

If Jesus is testifying, I want to listen to Him and find out what He believes. What do you say? And when I find out what He believes, then and I say, "Lord, I believe that because You said it," that's faith. So faith, the faith of Jesus, is ours as we listen to the testimony of Jesus. Revelation 19:10 tells us how this testimony of Jesus is manifested: The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy.

Then just as Jesus testified through all the prophets, so in these last days, Jesus has testified and is testifying through this modern revelation through the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy. This is the testimony of Jesus. Oh, I'm so thankful for these tens of thousands of inspired pages in which Jesus is telling us what He believes about a thousand different subjects. I can find out what He believes. And if that's what He believes, that's what I believe. That's faith—that's the faith of Jesus.

Can you see that if a man believes this, along with his study of the Bible, he will be reading and studying these writings of the modern revelation to help him appreciate and understand the Bible? Can we see that a man who has the faith of Jesus today will be listening intently to hear what Christ says through the Spirit of Prophecy? He's studying these things.

There's one problem with this, friends. Suppose here I am, I'm reading along, and I come to something, and I say, "My, that sounds strange. I never knew it said that. Does it really say that?" Then I read it again and do you know what it says the second time I read it? Just what it said the first time. I look at it, and I say, "My, does anybody do that?" If I'm not careful, you know what I'm liable to do? I'm liable to go to the Sabbath School teacher, or the deacon, or the church elder, or the Pastor or write to somebody and say, "I've just been reading here in *Volume 6*, or *Volume 3*, or whatever, and I found a statement and don't know what to make of it. It surely doesn't mean that, because I don't see anybody doing it, at least not very many, and I wonder what it means."

What am I looking for? I'm looking for a way out. Will God let me find it? Sure He will. God is not about to force my reason any more than He'll force my action. He won't *make* me believe any more than He'll *make* me do something.

This is the stumbling block of thousands of people as it relates to the Bible and the *Testimonies*. They read so far, and then they find something that's different from what they believe, and they stick to what they believe instead of accepting what Jesus says. That's the problem in a nutshell.

But my text says, "...here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." In order to keep it, you first have to have it. And in order to have it, you have to get it. And the way you get it is by reading the Bible and the

*Testimonies*, and accepting what they say. That's the way you get it, and the way you keep it is to hang right on to it and don't let anybody take it away from you.

There're books and papers traveling all over the country to destroy faith. I'm not interested in them, friend. Not a bit of it. If someone would write a paper to prove that my wife didn't love me, I wouldn't even buy one. No, I wouldn't. If somebody would give it to me, I wouldn't even read it. Not a bit of it. I know better. Why waste my time? And if people are writing things to destroy faith in the Bible, poor souls, God pity them. If people are writing things to destroy faith in the Spirit of Prophecy, the testimony of Jesus to this people, God pity them. And what they'll have to answer for in the Day of Judgment.

But I don't have to pollute my mind with all that rubbish. I don't have to destroy my soul with that sewage—not a bit of it. Thank God for faith. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Faith comes by listening to the testimony of Jesus. Unbelief comes by listening to all these doubts and criticisms and skepticism.

Somebody says, "But suppose you're mistaken?"

Bless your hearts, friends, what I'm talking about, there's no *possibility* of being mistaken. No possibility of being mistaken. Of course, my human opinions I could be mistaken. I've been mistaken a hundred times, a thousand times. I'm glad to learn and change my attitude. But what Jesus says there's no mistake about that. What Christ says is truth, because He *is* the Truth. If Jesus ever said anything that wasn't true before, it was true when He said it, because as soon as He said it, it was so. He cannot lie, the Bible says—it's impossible.

Oh, we're dealing with something that is wonderful, friends. There's no possibility of being mistaken about the truth of God. Our understanding of it may develop. Our perception of it may improve. That's all right. But the truth never changes.

“... all His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness”  
Psalm 111:7–8.

Now I come to a very interesting point. Let me illustrate it this way: Suppose I'm reading along in the Spirit of Prophecy, and I come to a page that's dealing with exercise, and it tells me that walking is the best exercise. Now, if I have faith, what do I say? I say I believe it. Do I know that yet? No, I don't know that yet. When do I know it? When I practice it, that's when I know it. If I just sit with my feet propped up on the desk or on the sofa and read all about the benefits of walking, I could even write an article about it, but it wouldn't be faith. I wouldn't know it until I had experienced it. Faith is not just a theory, friend; even a theory of the truth. Faith includes *experiencing* that which we believe.

Let me read you two sentences here that I think are wonderful:

“If we ever know the truth it will be because we practice it”  
*Counsels to Teachers*, page 97.

Then is just reading the truth enough, even though it's the truth, is that enough? No. I don't really know it until I practice it.

Here are some remarks that the prophet of God gave at the General Conference in 1901:

"Every soul has the privilege of knowing the truth, but truth is not truth to those who do not practice it. Truth is only truth to you when you live it in the daily life. You will act out all the faith that you possess" *Through Christ is the Victory*, page 184.

James wrote some things about this in the second chapter of his epistle. He indicated that there were some people that thought they had faith without works. He said, "You can try it and show me your faith without any works, but I'll show you my faith *by* my works."

Real faith shows itself in doing something—in doing what it believes, in doing what it reads and studies and finds to be true. Real faith acts out what it believes. So whether it's walking or working in the garden, or the type of recreation we engage in, or the books we read, or how we train our children, or the duties of husband's and wives, or how we keep the Sabbath, or how we spend our money, or music, or whatever, diet, dress, you name it, through the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy God has given us 10,000 instructions about it.

But truth is not truth unless we practice it. And the reason that many people have doubts about these things is that they've never experienced it.

Someone says, "But that's the trouble. I did try it, and it didn't work for me."

Bless your heart. Let's take this walking business we were talking about. I like to use walking as an illustration because somehow or another, people don't get offended about that. Even if they don't walk, they don't get offended. There are some things I could use as an illustration that may offend some people, and I don't like to offend anybody, so we'll talk about walking.

Tell me, if a person is not used to walking, and he reads about the benefits of walking and says, "I don't know, but I think I'll try that" and he starts out to try. What's he liable to find? It makes him sore. A lot of people don't like to be sore. So what are they tempted to do? Quit.

Is that a way to find out the faith of Jesus? Why, no. That's the way to fill the mind with doubt and unbelief and uncertainty. The way to fill the mind with faith in Jesus is to go ahead and do what He says, even if I don't enjoy the benefits of it to start with.

If I keep on, you know what will happen? Pretty soon, I know it by practice as well as by theory. I will know it by experience as well as reading it out of a book.

And when a person has that faith which is built on the testimony of Jesus and experienced in daily life, you can't take it away from him.

When I was a young fellow in my teens, I got hold of this idea of drinking water in the morning. When I first started doing that, the water didn't taste good. I didn't like it, but I kept on. It wasn't long before my body expected it, just like it expected to get a little water on the face in the morning. The inside needs it as well as the outside. Well, this isn't a health lecture, but it's all right if it is.

“Here are they that keep the commandments of God  
and the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:12.

The faith of Jesus is to believe what He believes and the way to find out what He believes is to listen to what He says in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and then put it into practice. Are we together on it? All right.

Now, I bring you to the most important part of all, dear friends. Faith includes not only belief, but trust. Faith includes an experience in trusting God.

The remnant church has ahead of it an experience in Jacob's trouble. Something like what Jesus went through in Gethsemane and the cross. There are many things that Jesus experienced there that we never will. He died as an atonement for sin. That you and I have no part in. We are not a sacrifice for sin, neither ourselves nor anybody else. Jesus paid it all, and He suffered an infinite suffering that He might die as a sacrifice for our sins—wonderful love.

Nevertheless, friends, there is an experience that Jesus went through in the Garden and at Calvary that the remnant will know something of. It was the experience of going through the darkness without any visible tokens of the favor of His Father. When He felt forsaken, what held Him? His faith. His faith in His Father's love and justice and mercy kept Him going right straight through His submission to His Father's will.

God is going to have some people down here today that have that attitude toward Him; that will trust Him in the darkness as well as in the light. They will have the faith of Jesus.

How do we get it? By the study of His Word and prayer day by day. Accepting what He says. Just as we learn—don't miss this— experimentally the benefits of walking and the benefits of proper diet, and all these other wonderful things, so we learn experimentally to trust God in the darkness as well as in the light. We learn to hang on by faith to God's promises when there's nothing else to hang onto.

And whose faith do we have? The faith of Jesus. Oh, let's not depend upon our feeble faith. Let's day by day open up our hearts and let Him come and live in us. What do you say?

He says that if you open the door, I will come in. And when Jesus comes in, dear ones, He brings with Him faith and love and every other blessing.



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