

ANSWERS: *Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 14 Faith and Confession*

Purpose of study: *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

Lesson 14: Faith and Confession (Day One) *Strengthening Faith*

Definition: The dictionary defines faith as complete trust or confidence in someone or something. The Bible defines faith as *being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see* (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is the central concept of Christianity and is complete trust and confidence in God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

1. Read Galatians 5:22-23. Is faithfulness a fruit of the Spirit (v. 22)? **Yes** No (Circle One)

Read Romans 8:6-7 and answer questions 2-4:

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;⁷ the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Romans 8:6-7

2. What is the result of having your mind controlled by the Spirit (v. 7)?

Life and peace.

3. How can you faithfully submit to God and His law?

Faith in Christ and submitting or being controlled by the Holy Spirit.

4. In your own words, write a one-sentence definition of faith:

Personal answer, but variations on this kind of answer: Complete trust and confidence in God, Jesus or triune God. Placing our trust and confidence in God all the time and in all circumstances. Or placing our life in the hand of God; entrusting our lives to God.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

5. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Why is it important to periodically review this truth?

Personal answer, but we need to remember that faith is the total reliance on God and His ability to work through us. When He does work through us, we give God the credit and glory. When does God work through us, there may be a tendency to think we deserve credit.

6. Prayerfully review your life and confess any situations or times that you shirked (avoided, neglected) responsibility. Share how God is helping you with your responsibilities now:

CLI Discipler, Please comment appropriately with encouragement and motivate your disciple in accepting his or her responsibilities.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" Luke 17:5

7. Pray now for the Lord to increase your faith. Ask Jesus to give you a strong and unwavering (solid, steadfast, firm) faith. After you have prayed, write a short summary of your prayer:

CLI Discipler, Please comment appropriately and pray with your disciple as you feel led.

8. Read the following "Faith Statements." How will these four statements alter or change your way of thinking about your faith?

(1. Who God is: **Personal Answer**

(2. What God can do: **Personal Answer**

(3. How God wants to change me: **Personal Answer**

(4. Not believing wrong or negative attitudes about God: **Personal Answer**

CLI Discipler, The *Faith Statements* are listed below for your convenience:

Faith Statements: Clear expressions of trust

(1. I will grow my faith on the basis of who God is and not who I am.

(2. I will grow my faith on what God can do and not what I can do.

(3. I will grow my faith on how God wants to change me and not how I want to change.

(4. I will grow my faith on the truth of who God is and not on any wrong or negative attitudes from myself or others.

Lesson 14: Faith and Confession (Day Two) *Faith and Evil*

9. Do you feel you are going forward, backward or standing still? (Circle One)

Personal Answer.

10. If you are going backward or standing still, what will you do about it?

Personal Answer.

11. Read the following “Faith Blockers.” How are these four blockers preventing *you* from growing in your faith?

- (1. Personal Satisfaction: **Personal Answer**)
- (2. Personal Significance: **Personal Answer**)
- (3. Personal Reputation: **Personal Answer**)
- (4. Personal Reality: **Personal Answer**)

CLI Discippler, Complete *Faith Blockers* listed below for your convenience:

Faith Blockers: Reduces trust

- (1. Personal Satisfaction: How can I be gratified (pleased, loved, accepted)?
- (2. Personal Significance: What do I have (money, family, looks) or do (sports, work, talent)?
- (3. Personal Reputation: What and how do others think of me?
- (4. Personal Reality: Who or what do I identify with from my past? Do other people define me?

Lesson 14: Faith and Confession (Day Three) *Living in Faith*

12. The woman was going to be punished because she had committed a crime by giving a chunk of yam to a man who was not her husband. What are some similarities between this story and the biblical account of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11)?

Personal Answer. CLI Discippler, your student only needs to see a couple of similarities. Here are a few:

- (1. Both women were brought before a large group of peers.
- (2. Both women had sinned with a man. In the case of the natives, even if not biblically sinful, the culture considered it wrong.
- (3. Jesus saved both women. One directly and the other through Mary.
- (4. Both groups were looking to exact cruel punishment upon the women.

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.² At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.³ The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group⁴ and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.⁵ In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"⁶ They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to

them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"¹¹ "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8:1-11

13. If the warrior had hurt or even killed Mary, would her faith have been any less valuable in the eyes of God? Yes No (Circle One) Explain your answer:

Personal Answer. Notes from the lesson: If the warrior had struck Mary or injured her, she would still have had the opportunity to live out her faith in love and humility among the people. If she had died, she would have died for serving Christ. The *outcome* of our faith is God's sovereign choice. We are to be obedient and place our faith and trust in God no matter what happens. Remember, Jesus was mocked and crucified by the "religious establishment" and is praised for His love and humility. He is our model.

14. In overcoming *Faith Blockers*, which of the four truths about God will help you the most and why?

CLI Discipler, Please comment appropriately with encouragement for your student's relationship with God.

CLI Discipler, Complete *Overcoming Faith Blockers*(4 truths about God) listed below:

- (1. **God Satisfaction:** I will grow my faith on the basis of who God is and not who I am. I will not be blocked by seeking my personal satisfaction and thinking about how can I be gratified (pleased, loved, accepted).
- (2. **God Significance:** I will grow my faith on what God can do and not what I can do. I will not be blocked by seeking my personal significance and concerned with what I have (money, family, looks) or what I do (sports, work, talent).
- (3. **God Reputation:** I will grow my faith on how God wants to change me and not how I want to change. I will not be blocked by seeking my personal reputation and what and how others think of me but only how it reflects the holy character of God.
- (4. **God Reality:** I will grow my faith on the truth of who God is and not on any wrong or negative attitudes from myself or others. I will not be blocked by an unhealthy interest in the personal reality of my past or what others say about me.

Lesson 14: Faith and Confession (Day Four) *Faith as a Gift*

Definition: Spiritual gifts are abilities, skills or talents which God gives through His Holy Spirit to enable all believers to serve Him and equip others. The apostle Paul listed about twenty spiritual gifts but that does not mean the lists are exclusive (limited).

Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 and answer questions 15-17:

To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 (Also Romans 12:6-8)

15. Who gives the gift of faith (vs. 9, 11)?

Holy Spirit.

16. How do you believe the Holy Spirit has gifted you?

Personal Answer, but if your student cannot think of any way he or she has been gifted please pray and encourage them in the fact that the Holy Spirit gifts all believers.

17. Do you ever thank the Holy Spirit for His good gifts? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

Personal Answer.

Read Matthew 17:20 and 1 Corinthians 13:2 answer questions 22-25:

He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2

18. What image (figure of speech) does both Jesus and Paul use in describing a strong faith?

A faith that can " move mountains."

19. How do you know that Jesus and Paul did not mean for believing saints to go around moving mountains of dirt and rock?

Moving physical mountains would not serve a purpose unless God ordained or willed it.

God opened the Red Sea for a sign and a purpose; it was His idea and not Moses'. If we just started moving physical mountains around it would take the attention off God and onto ourselves. This figure of speech that Jesus used is specifically a simile (a figure of speech that explicitly compares one thing to another by using the words "like" or "as." Jesus compares small faith to a mustard seed (and we know faith and mustard seeds are two different things) and continues the metaphor with the mountain.

20. What did Jesus and Paul mean by using this phrase, "move mountains"?

God works through our faith. He will remove great difficulties or problems if we ask and believe. Nothing will be impossible for the person serving God and working in His kingdom for His purposes.

Definition: Presuming is to think something is true without really knowing that it is true. Presume also means to do something that you do not have the right or permission to do.

Do not go up, because the LORD is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies,⁴³ for the Amalekites and Canaanites will face you there. Because you have turned away from the LORD, he will not be with you and you will fall by the sword."⁴⁴ Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up toward the high hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the LORD's covenant moved from the camp.⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down all the way to Hormah. Numbers 14:42-45

21. Reading Numbers 14:42-45, what do you learn about the sin and danger of presumption?

God does not have to respond or act when He gives us an assignment and we do not complete it in a timely manner. God does not act on what we think, but on His truth.

22. How would you determine whether you are acting in faith or presuming on God?

Pray and ask Him each day what he would like for you to do. Read and meditate on His Word. Wait for God's timing. Seek godly counsel.

23. Why do you think faith needs to be a continual (ongoing) part of your Christian life?

Personal Answer. Here are some ways to answer: Being a Christian means following Jesus and trusting God in all situations and circumstances. It is not a one-time event but a way of life. We need to trust God all the time. Putting our faith, trust and confidence in God is what makes us a disciple, a follower of Christ.

Read Romans 1:17 and answer questions 24-25:

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:17

24. Why is your response to life and its challenges so important in your relationship with God?

Personal answer, but should include something to the effect that Scripture tells us, *the righteous will live by faith*. If we are living in Christ, abiding in Jesus, then we need to respond to everything we do in faith and trust in God. The Lord expects us to live by faith and is not pleased when we shrink back.

But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."³⁹
But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved. Hebrews 10:38-39

25. Define righteousness based on Romans 1:17:

Living by faith.

“Human righteousness in the New Testament is absolute faith in and commitment to God. The one who in faith gives oneself to the doing of God’s will is righteous, doing righteousness, and reckoned righteous by God.” Holman Bible Dictionary, 1195

Lesson 14: Faith and Confession (Day Five) *Coming Clean*

26. Does your desire to know and please God outdistance (leave behind) your desire to sin?
Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Explain your answer:

CLI Discipled, Please comment appropriately to your student's personal answer.

*I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.*¹⁹ *I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'*
Luke 15:18-19 (Prodigal is defined as spending money or resources freely and recklessly)

27. Read Luke 15:18-19. Why do you think this prodigal was sincere in his desire to *come clean*?

He was willing to confess his sin and humbly accept a low position on his father’s estate.

Read Isaiah 53:3-6 and answer questions 27-29:

*He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*⁴ *Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.*⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*⁶ *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.* Isaiah 53:3-6

28. The prophet Isaiah foretold of Jesus, the Messiah, and how He would be treated when He was on earth in a physical body. List some of Jesus’ experiences with us (humanity) (v. 3):
(1. He was despised (2. rejected by men (3. experienced sorrow (4. suffering (5. Not esteemed (valued, respected, well-regarded).

29. What happened to Jesus because of your sins (transgressions, iniquities) (v. 5)?

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him.

30. Ask God to open your heart to understand the meaning of Christ's death and how to respond to the truth He reveals. Please share one truth God revealed about Christ's death:

Personal Answer.

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. ⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. Hebrews 12:3-4

31. Read Hebrews 12:3-4. How intense should our fight against sin and thus, our struggle to keep our heart pure be?

Extremely intense or strong. We are to consider Jesus and be willing to be injured or die to avoid sin. The point of this verse is that most of us have not resisted sin with much fervor or zeal.

Read 2 Peter 2:19-22 and answer questions 32-34:

They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity-- for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.²⁰ If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.²² Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud." 2 Peter 2:19-22

32. What were the false teachers promising (v.19a)?

Freedom

33. How were these false teachers slaves? (v. 19b)

Slaves of depravity-- for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. Thus they are slaves to moral corruption and wickedness.

(Depravity is moral corruption; wickedness.)

34. What did the false teachers turn their back on (v. 21)?

They turned their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. (The sacred command is an abbreviated way of saying the teachings of Christ. They were instructed how to live a holy life, a life set-apart to God).

35. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict (find guilty) you of any sins you have not previously confessed. Write down the sins the Holy Spirit brings to mind. As you write each sin, tell God you take responsibility for sinning against Him and you are truly sorry. Tell God you regret having done the actions or thought about evil things. Accept your full forgiveness and pardon in

the blood of Christ. Then tear up the paper into tiny pieces and discard. (Just write a one or two word description of the sin. You do not want to spend time with the sin, you just want to confess it and be rid of it forever). **Your comments as the Lord leads:**

CLI Discipler, Prayerfully and with the Holy Spirit's guidance comment on your student's personal answer.

36. Ask God to bring to mind anyone past or present that He desires you make restitution (compensation, amends, restoration). In other words, is there anyone you have hurt physically or emotionally? Write down who and what God brings to mind. Ask God what kind of action you need to take in each case and do what the Lord puts on your heart. **Note:** *First*, make sure that you have the victim of your actions and his interests foremost in your mind. In other words, consider what is best for him or her and not what makes you feel good or eases your conscience. For example, if you had an affair years ago and your spouse did not know about, would it cause the spouse undue pain and headache to learn of it now? *Second*, do not discount prayer as a viable (possible) act on the person's behalf. *Third*, the Lord will not ask you to do anything that will hurt or harm yourself or another person (Romans 12:21). Jesus is about restoration and healing – first with our relationship to God and second with our relationship to others. **Share one thing that the Lord asked you to do and how you will go about fulfilling His request?**

CLI Discipler, Prayerfully and with the Holy Spirit's guidance comment on your student's personal answer. Encourage and pray as led. If you have a personal story whereby God called you to make restitution, you may want to share it with you student.

37. Carefully consider with the Holy Spirit's guidance, sins that seem to have a grip (hold) on you. You find yourself confessing the same ones over and over again. You are stuck. Admit to God that you have a problem and need extra grace to succeed. You need all the power of heaven. You need the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! Put your mind in a position that you are willing to do anything that God requires of you in order to be healed of your sin and addiction. Prayerfully consider God's plan for you. Does he want you to share with someone who will commit to fervently praying? Do you need an accountability partner, another Christian of the same sex that will help you remain true and responsible? Do you need counseling? Does God want you to seek a physician or psychiatrist for prescribed medication? **Are you having difficulty with a certain kind of sin? If yes, how has the Lord asked you to proceed?**

CLI Discipler, Remember not to offer any counseling advice. Refer your student to various Bible verses on God's promises to help. Refer them back to the New Covenant and claim those promises. Prayerfully and with the Holy Spirit's guidance comment on your student's personal answer.

Read Hebrews 12:2-6 and answer questions 38-41:

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your

*blood.*⁵ *And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you."⁶ *because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."*
Hebrews 12:2-6 (Endurance: patience and scorn: despise; think worthless.)*

38. Who is the perfecter of our faith and the one we fix our eyes upon (v. 2)?

Jesus

39. What were two kinds of emotions Jesus experienced during his crucifixion (v. 2)?

Here are three: Joy, endurance (patience) and scorn.

Scorn is the feeling or belief that someone or something is worthless or despicable. Jesus looked down on the cross' shame and considered it worthless.

40. What should we consider when we are opposed in ministry (v. 3)?

Consider Jesus and how much opposition He endured from sinful men so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

41. What happens when Christians sin (vs. 5-6)?

The Lord disciplines, rebukes and punishes everyone he accepts as a son (includes women).

Memorize Galatians 2:20 and answer questions 42-43:

42. How are you to obey God and live the life God desires of you?

By faith.

43. Write Galatians 2:20 from memory:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

---End Answers Lesson 14---

Next and Final DOC Lesson 15: Love

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