

## **Living in the Faithfulness of Christ**

### **Salvation through Christ**

#### **Daily Devotional for June 16: The Therefore of Faith**

**Reading: Romans 5:1-11**

When you encounter "therefore" in Scripture, pause and ask why it's there. Paul's "therefore" in Romans 5 follows his explanation that we cannot earn righteousness through rule-following alone. We are justified not by our perfect obedience, but through faith in Christ's faithfulness. This truth liberates us from the exhausting treadmill of performance-based religion. Christ's work on the cross—His sacrifice, resurrection, and ascension—accomplished what our best efforts never could. Today, reflect on areas where you're still trying to earn God's approval. What would it look like to rest in Christ's finished work instead? Let His faithfulness, not your performance, define your relationship with God. The peace Paul speaks of comes from surrendering our striving and embracing His grace.

#### **Daily Devotional for June 17: Rules Cannot Save Us**

**Reading: Romans 3:19-28**

We love rules because they create order and make us feel in control. As the sermon noted, rules keep teenagers safe and parents from heartburn! But when it comes to salvation, rules reveal our inability rather than our capability. The law shows us we need a Savior; it cannot be the Savior itself. If following commandments could make us one with God, Jesus died for nothing. This is the radical truth Paul proclaims. God's rules are good—they protect us and point us toward flourishing—but they cannot transform our rule-breaking hearts. Only Christ can do that. Today, examine your spiritual life: Are you trusting in your religious performance or in Christ's performance for you? Confession, not perfection, is the pathway to intimacy with God. Let Christ's righteousness cover what your obedience cannot.

#### **Daily Devotional for June 18: The Faithfulness of Christ**

**Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

The Greek phrase "pistis Christou" can mean either "faith in Christ" or "the faithfulness of Christ." Both are true, but the latter shifts our focus from our weak faith to Christ's unwavering faithfulness. Jesus faithfully took on flesh, lived among us, taught truth, suffered unjustly, died sacrificially, rose victoriously, and ascended gloriously. This is the work that reconciles us to God. Our faith is simply saying "yes" to what Christ has already accomplished. When your faith feels small or your doubts feel large, remember: your salvation doesn't rest on the strength of your belief but on the strength of Christ's faithfulness. He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it. Today, thank God not for your ability to believe, but for Christ's ability to save completely.

#### **Daily Devotional for June 19: Becoming Like Christ**

**Reading: 1 John 3:1-3; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

The moral atonement theory teaches that transformation happens as Christ's character rubs off on us. Like the WWJD movement reminded us: What Would Jesus Do? This isn't about rule-following but about relationship and reflection. As we behold Christ—His self-sacrifice, His servant leadership, His unconditional love, His radical forgiveness—we are gradually transformed into His likeness. This happens not through willpower but through worship, not through striving but through surrendering. Spend time today simply looking at Jesus in the Gospels. Watch how He treats the marginalized, responds to critics, loves His betrayers, and serves His disciples. Ask the Spirit to make you more like Him. Transformation is less about trying harder and more about gazing longer at the One who loved you first and loves you still.

## **Daily Devotional for June 20: Love Like Jesus Loves**

***Reading: John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-21***

The ultimate evidence that Christ's character is rubbing off on us is love—authentic, sacrificial, unconditional love. Jesus didn't die for people who deserved it; He died "while we were yet sinners." This is the love we're called to extend: love that serves enemies, forgives betrayers, and sacrifices for the undeserving. This kind of love is impossible in our own strength, which is precisely the point. It requires us to draw continually from the love God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Today, identify someone difficult to love—perhaps someone who has hurt you or someone whose beliefs oppose yours. Ask God to help you see them as Christ sees them. Then take one practical step to love them as Jesus would: pray for them, serve them, forgive them. Let Christ's love flow through you to a watching world.

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*As you conclude this devotional journey, remember: Faith is not about following rules but following the Lover of our souls—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May His character increasingly become yours.*