

What Is Christian Faith?

John 4:43–54

Eight different titles of Jesus:

- **In 1:1, Jesus was announced as the Word, who could perfectly reveal God to man.**
- **In 1:29 and 36, Jesus is declared to be the Lamb of God, the one who would offer his life as a sacrifice for the sin of each man and woman.**
- **In 1:34, Jesus is called the Son of God, the unique Son of the Father, sent as a love gift for his people.**
- **In 1:38 and 3:2, Jesus is identified as a Rabbi who could perfectly teach us what God is like and how to be reconciled to him.**

- **In 1:41, Jesus is described as the Messiah, who would completely fulfill the promises of God given in the Old Testament.**
- **In 1:49, Jesus is welcomed as the King of Israel, who would sit on the throne and rule over his kingdom.**
- **In 1:51, Jesus is called the Son of Man, whom Daniel prophesied would have an everlasting dominion that would never pass away, filled with people from every nation and language who would serve him.**
- **In 4:42, Jesus is proclaimed the Savior of the world, who would shed his blood to bring salvation to all mankind.**

Authentic faith is not rooted in emotional experience but in the truth about Jesus Christ.

What Does The Bible Say?

43 At the end of the two days, Jesus went on to Galilee. 44 He himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown. 45 Yet the Galileans welcomed him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything he did there. (John 4:43–45 NLT)

What did “a prophet is not honored in his own hometown” mean?

Therefore, Galilee, along with Judea, is contrasted with Samaria.

46 As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick. (John 4:46 NLT)

Just because we have Jesus, affluence, or status does not mean we will be spared from tragedy!

47 When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die. 48 Jesus asked, “Will you never believe

in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?” (John 4:47–48 NLT)

The nobleman believed that Jesus could heal his son, but he made a mistake in his thinking: Jesus had to go to Capernaum to save him.

49 The official pleaded, “Lord, please come now before my little boy dies.” 50 Then Jesus told him, “Go back home. Your son will live!” And the man believed what Jesus said and started home. (John 4:49–50 NLT)

This is the definition of real faith; he did what Jesus said. It is not a feeling or an opinion; it is obedience.

51 While the man was on his way, some of his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and well. 52 He asked them when the boy had begun to get better, and they replied, “Yesterday afternoon at one o’clock his fever suddenly

disappeared!” 53 Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, “Your son will live.” And he and his entire household believed in Jesus. 54 This was the second miraculous sign Jesus did in Galilee after coming from Judea.

(John 4:51–54 NLT)

This is the second sign that John records, but it is not the second miracle that Jesus does.

How Can You Obey?

50 Then Jesus told him, “Go back home. Your son will live!”

And the man believed what Jesus said and started home. (John 4:50 NLT)

Are you looking for signs, or are you searching God’s words?

Additional Notes:

If you want to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Explore:

Christianity is about more than attending church and living a good moral life. Being a Christian is about having a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader should want to see each learner enter into this relationship—their eternal destiny depends on it.

As you work toward this goal, keep the following in mind:

Following Christ is more than a mere decision; it is about a lifelong relationship. Jesus called us to make disciples, not mere decision-makers. Aim for long-term faith, not momentary emotion.

Salvation is a matter of grace, not works. Our works do not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9), nor do they keep us (Galatians 3:2-6).

Good works are a product of salvation, not a prerequisite to it.

Don't confuse sanctification with salvation. Holiness follows salvation; it doesn't precede it. Don't try to impose "Christian" expectations on men and women who don't know Christ.

- Keep it simple. Being born again is not complicated. Here's a simple way to explain it:

- Acknowledge your sinfulness and need for a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins and His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

Surrender your life to God's transforming power (Romans 12:1-2).

Remember that your job is to tell the truth in a way others can understand, answer their questions, and allow them to respond.

If you do that faithfully, some will respond and join the band of Christ- followers. When they do, Heaven will rejoice!

Question 1 of 4

What does authentic faith look like?

Question 2 of 4

What titles have been used for Jesus through the first four chapters of John, and what do they tell us about Jesus?

Question 3 of 4

What role do miracles play in the life of God's people today?

Question 4 of 4

Why do people use the term "it was God's will" when they have no burning bush experience to back it up?