

Marks of a Disciple
Faith in Jesus
Ephesians 2:8-10

Over the next seven weeks, we will be looking at seven fundamental characteristics of those who are followers of Jesus.

Disciple: Learner with a deep connection to the teacher to replicate his or her doctrine and life.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” **Matthew 28:19a**

“Christ did not come to make Christians; he came to make disciples. He commanded us – His disciples – to carry on that work...But before a person can make disciples, he or she must first be a disciple.” **Robby Gallaty**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” **Ephesians 2:8-10**

I. **Faith Explained – Vs. 8-9**

Faith is the only possible way to receive salvation through Christ.

- **Positive:** Saved by grace through faith
- **Negative:** Not your own doing
- **Positive:** Gift of God
- **Negative:** Not a result of works
- **Result:** Only God gets the glory

“We must never think of salvation as a kind of transaction between God and us in which he contributes grace and we contribute faith. For we were dead and had to be quickened before we could believe.” **John Stott**

“Faith is the instrument by which you receive your salvation. It is not the cause of your salvation.” **Tim Keller**

II. **Faith Exhibited – Vs. 10**

Faith will allow us to fulfill the works that God has prepared for us.

“For we walk by faith, and not by sight.” **2 Corinthians 5:7**

“...the righteous shall live by faith.” **Romans 1:17b**

“And without faith it is impossible to please him...” **Hebrews 11:6a**

Step further: Every single day, in every single decision, we will either walk by faith (trusting in God) or by sight (trusting in ourselves). But faith is hard, and we fail at it more times than we succeed. Thankfully, God thought of that already and sent us help.

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” **Galatians 2:20**

Every Disciple of Jesus is Marked by Faith in Jesus. And Faith admits we cannot do it, and, instead, lets Jesus live it through us!

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *IVP Bible Background Commentary* – Craig Keener (1993)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A. T. Robertson (1933)
- *Complete Word Study Dictionary of the NT* – Spiros Zodhiates (1993)
- *God’s New Society: The Message of Ephesians* – John Stott (1979)