



## Jesus

Hebrews 11 *“These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”*

The leap from divinity to human is a bit of a jump. A leap of faith? It's almost impossible or hypocritical to measure or describe Jesus at all. What would it be like to leave God's kingdom (as God) and lower yourself to a human level? We can't (on a human level) know what that is like. Even in heaven we might not understand. Yet, Jesus is the ultimate way of faith. He left heaven because God the Father asked him to. He gave up his divine dignity for a race that would reject his sacrifice. However, Jesus kept the faith that the kingdom would prevail. By faith he let this crazy plan of redemption happen by him, to him, and for him. The ultimate faith leap?

The faith of Jesus is interesting. Many have asked what did Jesus give up to become human? I have no idea really. We are created like God so the scriptures say. Also, Jesus came down and took on human form. The idea is fully God and fully man. What part of God are we like? How much humanity did Jesus' struggle with? This is just my feelings on the topic. Did we learn about God or did God gain some knowledge about being less than God? Yet, within all these thoughts is Jesus, a man of faith. Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. I feel that Jesus believed in the Father and that is credited to his authority and kingship.

Most people don't think of Jesus as the Christ. That is a Jewish concept. Is it Jesus we truly see or is it the Christ? Much of the prophesy in the Bible is about the coming messiah or Christ. Jesus emulated this prophesy to a tee. He came to fulfill what the Christ is. I say all this because of the verses at the top. We were promised a saviour. The perfect spotless lamb of God that would pay for our fallen nature. Jesus would be the sinless lamb. Yet, if you really look at the temptation of the Christ it revolves around taking control. It is Jesus giving up his faith in God the Father and replacing it with faith in himself. Satan wanted Jesus to do the human thing. To be our own God. But (by faith) Jesus chose to set himself aside for the Glory of the Lord. To make himself a little lower than the angels. To be reduced to human. Let me explain the faith of Jesus to the best of my ability.

J Vernon McGee is a radio preacher who gave a great understanding of Jesus temptation. He tells the story of a bridge being washed out in his home town. They built a stronger bridge to replace the broken one. One day they put two locomotives on the bridge and blew the horns loud. Someone asked if the bridge was safe. The conductor answered that the bridge wasn't tested because it might fall, but to prove that it couldn't fall. That is our Jesus. The Christ is given by God as our guarantee that we will be saved. Christ. Jesus was tempted to prove that he was devoted and faithful to God the Father. Faithful to us as our perfect sacrifice for our sins. That this Christ is our guarantee of salvation. The faith of Jesus is displayed to let us know it is strong enough to overcome the world, death, and sin.

Paul does not mention Jesus by name in Hebrews 11. Yet, he does mention the promise. God the Father promised a future king. A saviour called the Christ or messiah. Jesus is that person. So, how does Jesus show us his faith? It's all in his actions. Some people say they have great faith. Maybe someone tells you all the good things he or she has done. Jesus gives us examples

of faith in parables and stories. Yet, the bulk of faith we see in Jesus is in the way he was with people.

By faith Jesus honors his parents. Again, he has a moment where Jesus could have declared himself as God. That he is greater than his parents. Yet, that is not what happens. Instead, it says that Jesus was obedient to them. Within that story Jesus could have declared himself God to the synagogue as a boy. Yet, Jesus is just there conversating and talking about the thing he loved: God the Father and theology.

By faith Jesus honors his father in heaven in the temptation. Jesus, again, could have showed Satan his real authority or power. Satan challenged Jesus to take control. To give in to human hunger and thirst. Yet, instead, Jesus made himself subservient to his Father in heaven. Jesus even put the word of God above himself.

By faith Jesus refuses to call on legions of angels. Instead, by faith he became in a little lower than the angels. Many believe that the Christ will come as a commander of armies. I believe that Jesus will have two comings. The first is a sacrifice to save us all. The second coming will be in all his glory as the victor commander of Heaven. Jesus didn't need to call on angels because he is God. He had the ability, but by faith he chose to respect the timing of the Father God. In some ways I feel that Jesus came as a human to be one of us. To say that he believes in creation. He loves creation, not hating it. By faith he just believed that all would work itself out.

By faith Jesus went to the cross. The age-old quote by pastors is "*who would die for sinners?*" Most of us would have a hard time dying for loved ones let alone strangers. Jesus trusted the process of dying as a human but being raising as a God. Satan and the men on the cross said to Jesus "*save yourself.*" Jesus spoke truth but Pilot said "*what is truth?*" over and over

Jesus was tempted to be God, to be powerful, yet he chose faith in his Father. Most pastors ask us to trust the process of Christianity. Jesus did!

Finally, I would say that (by faith) God the Father trusted Jesus. God gave us one and only Son. That means there was no plan B. Jesus is the plan. The only plan! God so loved the world. We can also say God so loved the Son. Why did God speak at the baptism of Jesus? I think it was to let the world know that he was proud of his Son. That Jesus was displaying ultimate faith. Paul mentions in the verse in the beginning of this study that “together we” will make it perfect. Yes, we needed to have faith. Yet, Christ Jesus gave us faith by his display of faith. That act gave us the Spirit of faith: The Holy Spirit. We (by faith) display our trust in Christ. Our trust in the plans of the Father. This series is over but your acts of faith should go on and leave a legacy as Christ Jesus and the Saints of old did.