

What Faith Looks Like
John 6:38
By Russell Earl

Thesis: We want to see what real faith looks like.

- Intro:
1. Every one believes they have faith.
 2. Does your “faith” stand up to the standard of faith found in the Bible?
 3. If your faith doesn’t stand up to the standard, are you willing to make the necessary changes?
- I. A follower of Christ has a faith that doesn’t expect an easy life (**1 Peter 4:12-13**).
- A. A follower of Christ will expect hardships (**1 Tim 3:12**)
 1. Despite what some may say, a life of faith involves many hardships.
 2. Being a person of faith natural comes with hardships (**2 Tim 2:8-9**).
 - B. A follower of Christ will thank God for the good times (**Ps 68:19**)
 1. Too many times we pray for help in hard times but we don’t thank God for the good times.
 2. A faithful follower of Christ will of course have good times too.
 - C. A follower of Christ will grow through the hard times (**Ps 55:16-17**).
 1. Through hard times we learn if we are courageous or cowards (**Jer 20:8-9**).
 2. The cowardly have no place with God (**Rev 21:8**).
- II. A follower of Christ has a faith that doesn’t shake hands in agreement to leaders of wrong doing (**Acts 20:29-31**).
- A. A faithful follower of Christ will not go along with teaching error (**Titus 1:9b**)
 1. Teachers of error must be opposed – **James 2:26**
 2. The truth must be upheld – **1 Peter 3:21, Gal 3:26-27**
 - B. A faithful follower of Christ will not bind opinion or tradition upon others (**Mt 15:2-3**).
 1. We must understand that the opinions of some can not become “the law” for the entire congregation.
 2. Opinions are not wrong to have, but opinions are the feelings or ideas of men and are not law.
 3. Many times opinions are treated as if they are law and must be followed-this attitude is sinful (**3 Jn 1:9-10 – emphasis v.11**).
 4. Traditions can be disguised under the cloak of “this is how we have always done it”.
 5. Binding opinions or traditions on others can hinder workers for God (**1 Tim 5:18a**).
 - a. **Matt 7:15-16a , Titus 1:10a**—promoters of opinions often have the appearance of godliness but their actions reveal otherwise. The church cannot give in to those of error or those who promote their own selfish opinions.

III. A follower of Christ has a life of faith that is acceptable to God.

A. A follower of Christ sets an example to those around him

(2 Kings 18:1-7, 2 Kings 21:1-3)

1. A follower of Christ is someone who can be looked up to

(“Noah walked with God”-**Gen 6:9**)

2. Being adult doesn't mean your example is one that should be followed.

B. The road to hell is paved with those who have not put God 1st!

1. We must do what God says (**Lk 6:46**).

2. Job put God first (**Job 1:1, 42:12**)

Conc: 1. Are you a godly example of faith?

2. If you are not the example of faith that you should be, are you willing to do what is necessary to become an example of faith?

3. Invitation