



The Disciple: Faithful  
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## Certainty & Uncertainty

*What is a disciple of Jesus?*

*How would you recognize one? What do you look for?*

*February 13<sup>th</sup> – A Disciple is to be known by their spiritual fruit. This fruit is grown and shown in our relationships.*

*Today: A Disciple is to be known by their faith. This faith is grown and shown in our responses to our circumstances.*

Faith: Trusting God with what we cannot control while being obedient in the areas of our life that we can control.

**If your faith in Jesus doesn't change your behavior, your faith is meaningless.**

Stories of great faith – Hebrews 11

*It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before.... It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land God promised him, he lived there by faith... It was by faith that Sarah together with Abraham was able to have a child, even though they were too old and Sarah was barren... It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him... It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months... It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground... It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho seven days, and the walls came crashing down...*

**Two keys in a biblical faith story: God's promises and obedience**

Living by faith will include: Obedience to what we know for sure, and yet trusting God with what we do not know and cannot control.

*"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would rather receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."*  
Hebrews 11:8

**Certainty** – Are you willing to be obedient to what you know for sure?

**Uncertainty** – Will you trust the goodness and love of God despite your circumstances and understanding.

"But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half,<sup>[a]</sup> and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us."

Hebrews 11:35-40

***What is the promise for us?***

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."

John 3:16-17

*"And God, in his mighty power, **will protect you** until you receive this salvation, because you are trusting him. It will be revealed on the last day for all to see. So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though it is necessary for you to endure many trials for a while. These trials are only to test your faith, to show you that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold – and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. Your reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls".*

1 Peter 1:5-7

QUESTIONS:

"Everyone lives by faith" What areas of life do you put faith in?

How have you defined living by faith? What do you know for sure from God's Word? What does it look like to live by faith in your daily actions?

What areas of uncertainty are you needing to trust in the goodness of God?

Are difficulties making your faith stronger or weaker?