

Author and Finisher of Faith

Pg 1

"Therefore seeing we also are encompassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us; **Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of Faith**; who for the joy that was set-before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Author: from the Greek word *archegos* which means: author, originator, founder, prince, leader, captain; and literally means "First-leader" - and thus "does not strictly mean 'author' in the sense of a writer, but rather a person who is the originator, inventor, creator, pioneer, or founder of something new or unique; and who continues as it's leader, and/or sustainer.

Finisher: from the Greek word *teleiotes* which means: Finisher, or Completer. properly, a consummator, someone who brings a 'process' to its perfect end, or perfection (a Perfecter); and is derived from the word *telos* which means: reaching the consummation, or the end-goal, aim, or purpose of some endeavor. In context the 'process' that Jesus is bringing to completion and perfection is the faith of true believers; which is faith in God's Son Jesus, faith in His Way of salvation, faith in His promises, callings, and leadership; faith in His commandments and ways of living,...

Faith: from the Greek word *pisteos (pistis)* which means: Faith; (derived from the word *peitho*: which means: to persuade, to be persuaded; properly: persuasion to the point that reaches **true Faith** in the person so persuaded).

Spiritual Faith encompasses complete trust, belief, confidence, surrender, and obedience in and to the One in whom we have placed our faith – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This kind of faith is a gift from God; and this faith grows by means of God's continual persuasion in our lives through His Word, through His provision, through the guidance of the Spirit of Christ abiding in us, through the trials and tribulations, and other testings of our faith, that we experience in our lives.

Faith - Scriptural insights:

"Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. (Hebrews 11:1-2)

The same verses paraphrased: "Now faith is the substance (real stuff) of things (promises from God based on obedience to God's word and commands) hoped for, the evidence (factual acts of faith done in obedience to God) of things not seen (the same hoped for promises to be obtained sometime later in the future). For by it (by faith) the elders obtained a good report (it was counted unto them as righteousness!); as it says: " **But the just shall live by his faith.**" (Habakkuk 2:4)

"But **without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)**; for he who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. " (Hebrews 11: 6)

"**We walk by faith**, not by sight." (read in context: 2 Corinthians 5:1-7-10)

"**Faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God.**" (read in context: Romans 10:8-17)

Author and Finisher of Faith

Pg 2

“Even so **faith, if it has not works, is dead**, being alone. ... For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is also dead!**” (read in context: James 2:14-17-26)

“And Jesus said unto them, 'Because of your little-faith; for truly I say unto you, **If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed**, you shall say unto this mountain, Be remove here to there; and it shall be moved; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.’” (read in context: Matthew 17:14-20)

Author And Finisher of (Our) Faith: In context, Jesus is the Author, Founder, Originator, and Sustainer of our faith. Jesus is also the One who will cause our faith to grow from faith to faith through the persuasion of His Word, the continual leading of His Holy Spirit within us; and through His provision, trials and tribulations, and other testings of our faith. Jesus will bring our faith to its complete and perfect finish! Specifically Jesus is the One, and Only One, who brings the life of faith in us to its complete finish, conclusion, and consummation. In context Jesus is the One who has in His own person "raised faith to its perfection and so set before us the highest example of faith in the Father's will and purpose" for us in His Beloved Son Jesus!

Jesus is called **the Author and Finisher of Faith!** We must "**look**" unto Jesus so that He can sustain, perfect, and complete our walk of faith. This is a walk of faith dependent on abiding in Christ Jesus, and Christ Jesus abiding in us. Just as the great "cloud of witnesses" accomplished great acts of faith in regards to the promises of God, so also may we through faith, when we in obedience, abide in Christ and place our hope in His promises and rewards to us! Consider these faith based exhortations for meditation and discussion:

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**" (Philippians 2:12-13)

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing **your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ**, in the sight of our God and Father; knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. For our gospel came not unto you in word only, **but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit**, and in much assurance; as you know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And you became followers of us, **and of the Lord**, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit; so that you were examples to all who believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place **your faith towards God** is spread abroad; so that we need not to say anything." (1 Thessalonians 1:3-8) (For example read 2 Corinthians 8:1-7)

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, has made us alive together with Christ; by grace you are saved; and He has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; so that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. **For by grace you are saved through faith**; and that **not of yourselves**. It is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast. **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has beforehand ordained that we should walk in them.**" (Ephesians 2:4-10)

Author and Finisher of Faith

Pg 3

"...When He (Jesus) shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed in that day. Therefore also, we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and make full every good desire of His goodness, and the **work of faith** with power; so that **the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him**, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 1:10-12)

"Now to Him (Jesus) **who has power to establish you** according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations **for the obedience of faith**; To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen." (Romans 16:25-27)

"We say **that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness**. How was it then reckoned? And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But **for us also**, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him (the Father) who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.' " (please read in context Romans 4:12-25)

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials; knowing this, that **the testing of your faith works patience**. But let patience have her perfect work, that you **may be perfect and entire**, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally, without reproach; and it shall be given him. **But let him ask in faith**, nothing doubting. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." {James 1:1-7)

"What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he has faith, but has not works? **can faith save him?** If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled; and yet you do not give them those things which are needful to the body; what does it profit? **Even so faith, if it does not have works, is dead, being alone.** Yet someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, **and I will show you my faith by my works.** You believe that there is one God; you do well: the demons also believe, and tremble. But will you know, O vain man, **that faith without works is dead?** Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? You see how faith was working with his works, and by those works faith was made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which said, **"Abraham believed (had total faith in) God**, and it was reckoned unto him as righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. You see then that by works a man is justified, **and not by faith only.** Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-26)

Author And Finisher of Faith

Pg 4

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has caused us to be born again unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **who are kept by the power of God through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a season, **if need be**, you are in heaviness through manifold trials; so that **the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, **might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ**; whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see **Him** not, **yet believing**, you rejoice with unspeakable joy and full of glory; receiving as **the end of your faith** (*the end-perfection of your faith*), even the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:3-9)

"Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else **believe Me** for the very works' sake. Truly, truly, I say unto you, He **who believes on Me**, the works that I do **he shall do also**; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father. And whatever you shall ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask any thing in My Name, I will do it." (John 14:11-14)

"Jesus said "If you abide in Me, and **My words abide in you**, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples." (John 15:7-8)

Jesus is ...

the Author and Finisher of Faith

Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of our faith

Jesus is the Author, Founder, Originator, and Sustainer of our faith.

Jesus is also the One who will cause our faith to grow from faith to faith through the persuasion of His Word, the continual leading of His holy Spirit within us!

When we keep 'Looking' unto Jesus He shall faithfully
bring our walk in faith to it's perfect consummation!
He shall lead and guide us from faith to even greater faith.
He shall abide in us if we abide in Him!

Apart from Christ Jesus we have no life saving faith!
The evidence of true faith is good works done in and through Christ Jesus!

Lord Jesus, thank you for being the Author, and Finisher, and Perfecter of my faith!

Please Lord Jesus continue to increase my faith.

Always and Always, Amen and Amen!