



## YOU ASKED FOR IT

### Week 1 | What Does Real Faith Look Like?

#### | KEY THOUGHTS

- Whether in art, relationships, or faith, **we all want the authentic.**
- Jesus invites us into a real faith that makes a real difference in our lives.
- **Real faith in Christ always leads to new life.**
  - This is a total reorientation of life, with new values, priorities, desires.
  - This is NOT Jesus giving you a better life, making you a better version of yourself, you figuring out a better way.
  - This IS Christ living in you; you no longer live for yourself, but for Christ.
- My sin is a debt I could never take care of myself, but **Jesus paid it for me through His death; that's mercy.**
- Through His resurrection, Jesus enables me to have a **healthy relationship with God; that's called grace.**
  - Knowledge and agreement are critical, but that doesn't save you; that only happens when you **intentionally decide to trust Him.**
- **If you're not in Christ, you're not new.**
  - **You're under the weight of your sin debt,** having never experienced mercy.
- **If you are in Christ, you are new!**
  - This new life is marked by **the Holy Spirit living inside you, transforming you.**
  - **This has always been God's plan from the beginning,** even in the Old Testament.

## | SCRIPTURE

<sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. <sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**2 Corinthians 5:15-17 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. <sup>14</sup> The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

**Ephesians 1:13-14 (NLT)**

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Romans 12:2 (NLT)**

<sup>25</sup> Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. <sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

**Ezekiel 36:25-27 (NLT)**

He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

**2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT)**

## | PRACTICAL

- Can you identify any ways that your life is being transformed? Do you see...
  - Changes in your thinking, perspectives, and desires?
  - An increase in your love toward others?
  - A decrease in your self-centeredness?
  - A growing desire and ability to live under God's leadership?
- If so, you're seeing the fruit of the Spirit in your life, which is evidence of genuine faith!
- Celebrate God for the way He's changing you, and tell others about this transformation of your life.
  - This might seem at first like boasting, but it's not; it's worship!
  - It's pointing others to Jesus.

## | REFLECT

- Has there ever been a point when you made the intentional decision to trust in what Jesus has done for you and invited Him to transform your life?
- Remember that you're not saved because you feel saved, but because of the truth of what Christ has done for you and is doing in you.
- When you walk in genuine faith, you'll always be battling sin, but always growing in faith; often getting it wrong, but often getting it right. You will no longer be living under fear of death or uncertainty about the future; no longer trying to do better, be better, be more disciplined; no longer relying on your feelings, but on the reality of Jesus Christ.
- If your life does not evidence this spiritual transformation, what's preventing you from trusting in Jesus to do this supernatural work in you?

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