



  
 CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
*September 25, 2022*  
*“Our Response”*

*SS 9:30, Service at 10:30 with King’s Kids.*

News:

**Wednesday Classes**

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What is John chapter 6 about? What are the chapter’s two biggest and most important revelations?

1)

2)

It’s about discovering Who Jesus is and then it’s about your personal \_\_\_\_\_ to that revelation. Since the revelation is ongoing, your response is ongoing. What will you do with Jesus over time?

Clearly, that’s not just a question for the non-Christian (Matthew 16:15, Mark 1:1&15).

To “repent” is to recognize that you are going the \_\_\_\_\_ way and to turn away from that path and go the \_\_\_\_\_ way.

The “Gospel” is εὐαγγέλιον (ü-än-gël-lē-ön), the fantastic \_\_\_\_\_ “about Jesus the Christ, the Son of God.”

Salvation entails believing what the Heavenly Father \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus and acting upon that belief.

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

John 6:66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

Verses 41, 52, 60, and 61, all show them \_\_\_\_\_ and actively arguing with one another over Jesus' "Difficult statement." It is σκληρός (sklā-rōs), which means difficult because it is intolerable.

They found the Father's \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus intolerable.

Jesus has sent out \_\_\_\_\_ to a dinner that He is Hosting... How will you respond?

No one can \_\_\_\_\_ unless they are drawn by the Father. The Father draws people through His \_\_\_\_\_.

Will a person learn?

What would prevent a person from learning?

### JOHN 6:67-71 ~

Apparent Christians who fall away from the faith. What gives?

The best way that you can be certain about your faith is to \_\_\_\_\_ the true Biblical Jesus and be \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. Reject the Jesus who allows you to remain in your comfort zone.

Jesus accepts you just the way you are, but He has no intention of \_\_\_\_\_ you be comfortable with that life.

In your walk with Jesus, you will find that there will be a series of tweaks, irritations, trials, and tribulations, all designed to push you into deeper \_\_\_\_\_.

Guess what? You get to \_\_\_\_\_ each and every time whether you will allow the challenge to mature your faith or to derail your faith.

Either you or Jesus will need to change...

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Write a brief note – detach and place in the offering, or the prayer box, or give it to a Deacon or Elder.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



# lêtheia

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP




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the gospel of

# JOHN

ΕΝΑΡΧΗ Η ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΚΑΙ Ο ΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΗΝ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ  
 ΘΝ ΚΑΙ ΘΕ ΤΗ ΝΟΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΣΥ ΤΟΣ Η ΝΕΝΑΡΧΗ ΤΙΡΟΣ  
 ΤΟΝ ΘΝ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΔΙΑ ΤΟ ΥΕ ΓΕΝΕΤΟ ΚΑΧΩΤΙΣ

We've been studying John chapter 6 for well over a month and so, I would say, that we've learned enough to have a pretty good handle on this Bible chapter – at least up through the first 66 verses.



If you asked people on the street to read the chapter and then to list what struck them as the chapter's two biggest and most important revelations, I'm sure that the Multiplication of the Fishes and the Loaves, along with Jesus Walking on the Water, would be the clear winners.

Those of you who have been here over the last month or so, would have a different view – a far more

sophisticated view. I would say a far more profound view.



You would know that the entire chapter is 1) firstly about, Who Jesus is, and 2) secondly about, the utter inability for people to accept Him, for Who He is. It's about discovering Who Jesus is and then it's about your personal response to that revelation. Since the revelation is ongoing, your response is ongoing. What will you do with Jesus over time?

That's been the Message of the entire Gospel so far. It is a two-part concept that is the single-most important question facing mankind. Every person will answer that

question and their answer will have eternal consequences for them.

Certainly, we can see how monumentally important it is for a non-Christian to understand the concept and to change their answer, but what has become even clearer, is that the Christian's understanding and answer must be carefully reevaluated as well.

Who is Jesus? Really, literally, genuinely... There is an answer, an absolute answer, that has nothing at all to do with human opinion, human desire, or human wisdom; it has only to do with reality. Who is Jesus actually and then, what will you do with Him once you begin to recognize His true Being?

Can you, and will you, fully accept Jesus for Who He truly is? This is all that matters. It is all that matters because getting this wrong, makes getting everything else right, meaningless – eternally meaningless. A person must get this right or there's simply no point to anything else... period. This is essential.

Jesus asked that very thing in Matthew 16:15, He said to them, "But who do you say that I am? It is to say, I

don't care what other people say, or what theories you've heard, "Who do you say that I am?" The word "You" is the first word in the original question making it emphatic... "Who do YOU say that I am?"

**MARK 1:1 "THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST,  
THE SON OF GOD."**

**MARK 1:15 "THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT  
HAND; REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL"**

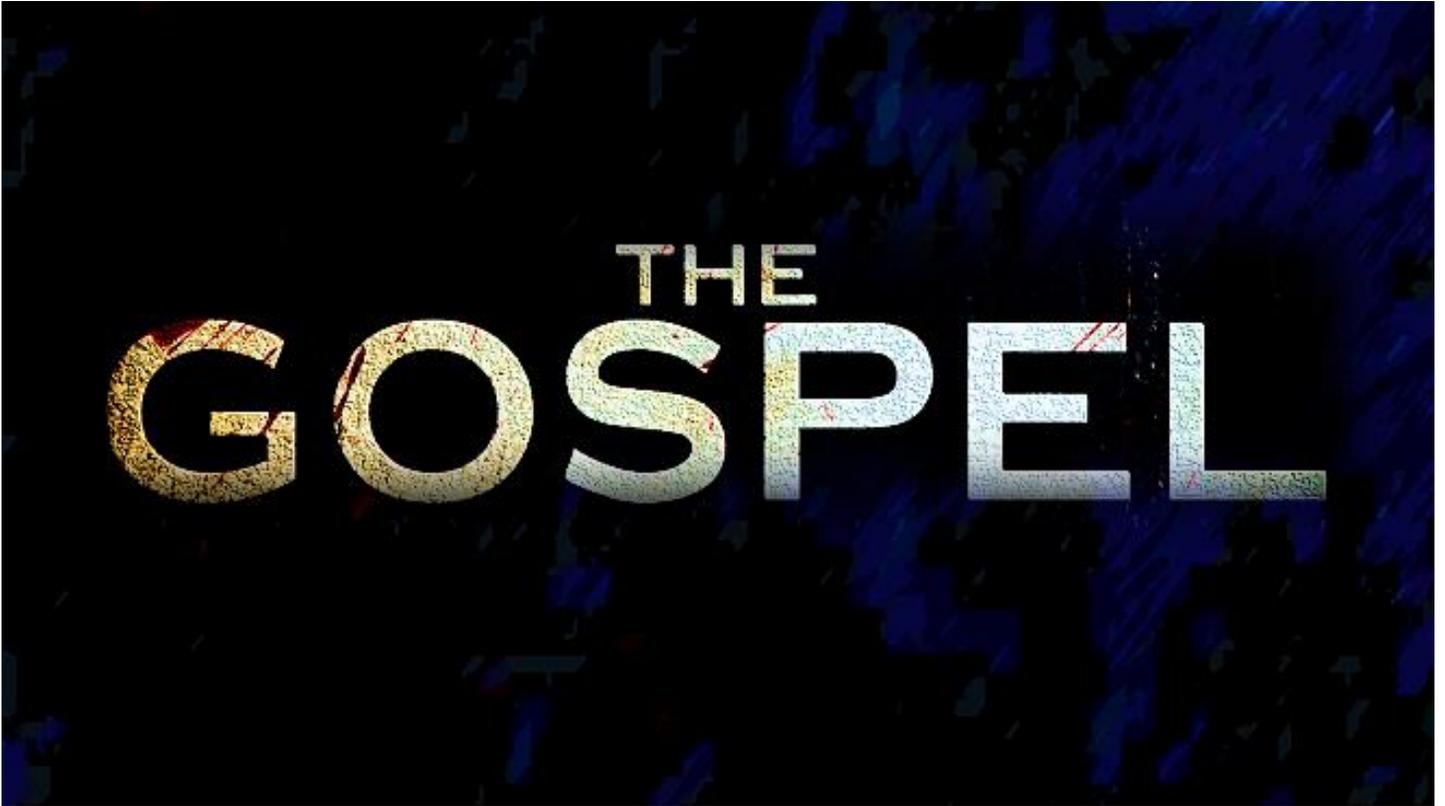
Mark 1:1 opens with the words that the account is "the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Just a few verses later Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). We see that the Gospel is about Jesus, and we see that the key to the Kingdom of God is to "repent and believe in the gospel"

It seems like two separate commands. “Repent” is the first, and then “Believe in the Gospel,” is the second. It’s actually only one thing. It is a poetic-rhetorical phrasing for emphasis and means that the person believing in the Gospel also repents and the person repenting also believes in the Gospel. In fact, you cannot truly repent unless you believe the Gospel and you cannot truly believe the Gospel unless you repent – they go hand-in-hand – it’s one thing.



Okay, but what are those two things that are only one thing, specifically? To “repent” is to recognize that you are going the wrong way and to turn away from that path – that life – 180 degrees, heading off in the

opposite direction – the right direction – God’s direction.



“Gospel” is from the Old English Godspell. It means the God story – the story about God. It is a translation of the Greek word εὐαγγέλιον (ü-än-gěl-lē-ön). The ü sound at the beginning of any Greek word functions as a superlative meaning great, or awesome, or good. When you see English words beginning with “e-u” you can bet that they are loan words from Greek. Eulogy means a good word, eugenics means good genetics, euphoria means good phoria... good feeling.

The end bit is from ἀγγελία (än-gě-lē-ä), meaning a message (ἄγγελος (än-gě-lös) means a messenger and so God's messengers are called an angels). What I'm driving at is the Gospel is the great message, or as we say, the Good News.

Fine, what is the Good News? Well, we already found out it is the fantastic God story "about Jesus the Christ, the Son of God." Again, to believe the Gospel account about Jesus is to accept the True Jesus that it presents and to accept the True Jesus is to believe the fantastic news about Him. To do so first requires one to repent, but to repent, one must believe. The two things are simultaneous and two interwoven facets of the same thing.

This is the critical point. Salvation entails believing what God revealed about Jesus – what the Heavenly Father teaches about Jesus and acting upon that belief. If you believe through this faith act of trust, you will be Saved.

Sounds easy, doesn't it? Well, perhaps that's the problem... It's too easy. So, we complicate it with our individual phobias, our human absurdities, our fleshly

desires, and our personal agendas. We muddy the waters because we seek a Jesus Who fits us better, but that Jesus is merely a self-created delusion utterly incapable of saving anyone.

I often put all of this another way; the most important question any human will ever face is, what you believe. “What do you believe?” Then the second-most important question after that is, “How much do you believe it?” Again, the two things are really the same thing... Right? If you truly believe in the true Jesus, you will believe with abandon – nothing will be more important to you than Him and so your belief will go hand in hand with your repentance.

It is past time to figure out what it is that you actually believe... Who is the true Jesus? And then, it is past time, to figure out just how much you believe it... Will you fully accept Jesus for Who He truly is and be transformed by the truth of it?

What have others decided? The answer from the crowd miraculously fed by Jesus is recorded in John 6:66, 66As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.



Does it say why they withdrew and were not walking with Jesus anymore? Yes, in verse 41 the people “grumbled,” gone-goose-moss, because Jesus claimed to be divine.

They were correct in their assessment of His claim. There’s no other reasonable way to take “I AM, that which I AM, I AM the true Manna, the Bread of Life, that came down out of Heaven.” They heard that and they grumbled, they murmured, they complained, they muttered. Jesus ordered them to stop it, but did they?

No, in verses 52, 60, and 61, we find them still grumbling and actively arguing with one another over what the NASB calls Jesus' "Difficult statement." It is σκληρός (sklā-rōs), which means harsh, hard, and so "difficult" is an okay translation, but that translation, as well as the translation in other Bibles that the teaching is "hard," misses the reason that it is hard, or the type of difficulty that it entails. The word σκληρός means it's hard, or difficult because it is unpleasant, distasteful, and intolerable.

These disciples were actually disputing, quarreling, and fighting with each other over Jesus' amplified explanation of "I AM the Bread that came down out of Heaven." Why? Because it was intolerable.

So many people think that the big issue was the disciple's repulsion at the idea of actual cannibalism – the idea that Jesus was going to hack off His own appendages and make them eat His physical flesh and drink His physical blood. They were not that dumb. They understood that He was speaking metaphorically and perhaps, for them, that was worse.

The implication was that they could only be right with God by relying exclusively on Jesus as the only and the entire means of Salvation. That's a tough pill to swallow especially when all that you've known, all of your life, is a performance-based acceptance – a works-based religion.

Basically, Jesus had invited them to dinner, and they refused to eat the food that He had prepared for them. They refused to stay at His feast, and they walked out on Him as the Host. That is a choice.



One of the first military events that I took Mariah to, was a formal “Dinning Out.” A “Dinning In” is where

only military personnel are invited and a “Dinning Out” is where civilians are invited as well. This particular event was hosted by my Squadron Commander through his proxy – one of my fellow Captains.

We all had our turn in the barrel hosting a squadron event. As a sidenote, when it was my turn, I made it a Roman toga party. One of my best friends, who was unusually tanned from birth showed up late. Everyone stopped and turned towards the door as he made his entrance and without missing a beat he said, “Sorry I’m late, I wasn’t too sure that I should be entering a room with a bunch of white people dressed in sheets.”

Anyway, the event that I took Mariah to was held at the Clovis NM Colonial Park Country Club. A few years earlier it was the site of the second-largest outbreak of botulism in U.S. history. You can Google it. Anyway, it was a very formal event, all the dudes in our Mess Dress uniforms, replete with medals and wings, all the ladies in evening dresses with beautiful corsages. Candles on the tables and soft music in the background. The food served that night, may not have been poisonous, but it wasn’t good either.

My buddy Smokey and I decided to call in an order to a local outfit. You should have seen the look on people's faces when a scruffy dude entered the room holding a flat white box over his head and shouting out, over the music and small talk, "Who ordered the Meat Lover's Pizza?" We got in trouble.

The reason, of course, was that our action was a repudiation of the host and the party that he had provided. We rejected what was offered and that's a choice.



Jesus has sent out invitations to a dinner that He is Hosting... How will you respond? Interestingly we have

discovered that no one can accept Jesus' invitation and enjoy the dinner He has prepared unless they are encouraged to do so by the Father.

The Father draws people to the feast through His teaching... Those who learn what the Father teaches are those who are drawn to Jesus and ultimately eat and drink. The Father teaches through His Word that is animated by His Breath. That is the Holy Scripture, then, as well as now.

Will a person learn? According to the Scripture any person who genuinely seeks the true God of Heaven will find Him. Learning from God through His Word made alive by His Breath is possible evidently for everyone, but not without effort. What is that effort? Well, it is the seeking of the Lord with the proper mindset to learn.



What would prevent a person from learning? Ego. It is the arrogant pride that does not want to be corrected. My dear friends learning requires humility. Learning something new requires that you cast off what you thought you already knew. – As the blue chick on Avatar said, “It is hard to fill a cup which is already full.” You must be humble enough to change your understanding and that is precisely what held the crowd back – they refused to rethink their position.

I’ve been a teacher all of my life. I’ve taught a lot of people, a lot of things, over a lot of years, and the one thing that I can tell you, is that it is impossible for me to

teach a person who already thinks they know. To learn you must be willing to be open to instruction, open to new ways of thinking and doing. You must embrace being out of your comfort zone. That can be scary, that feeling of not being in control.

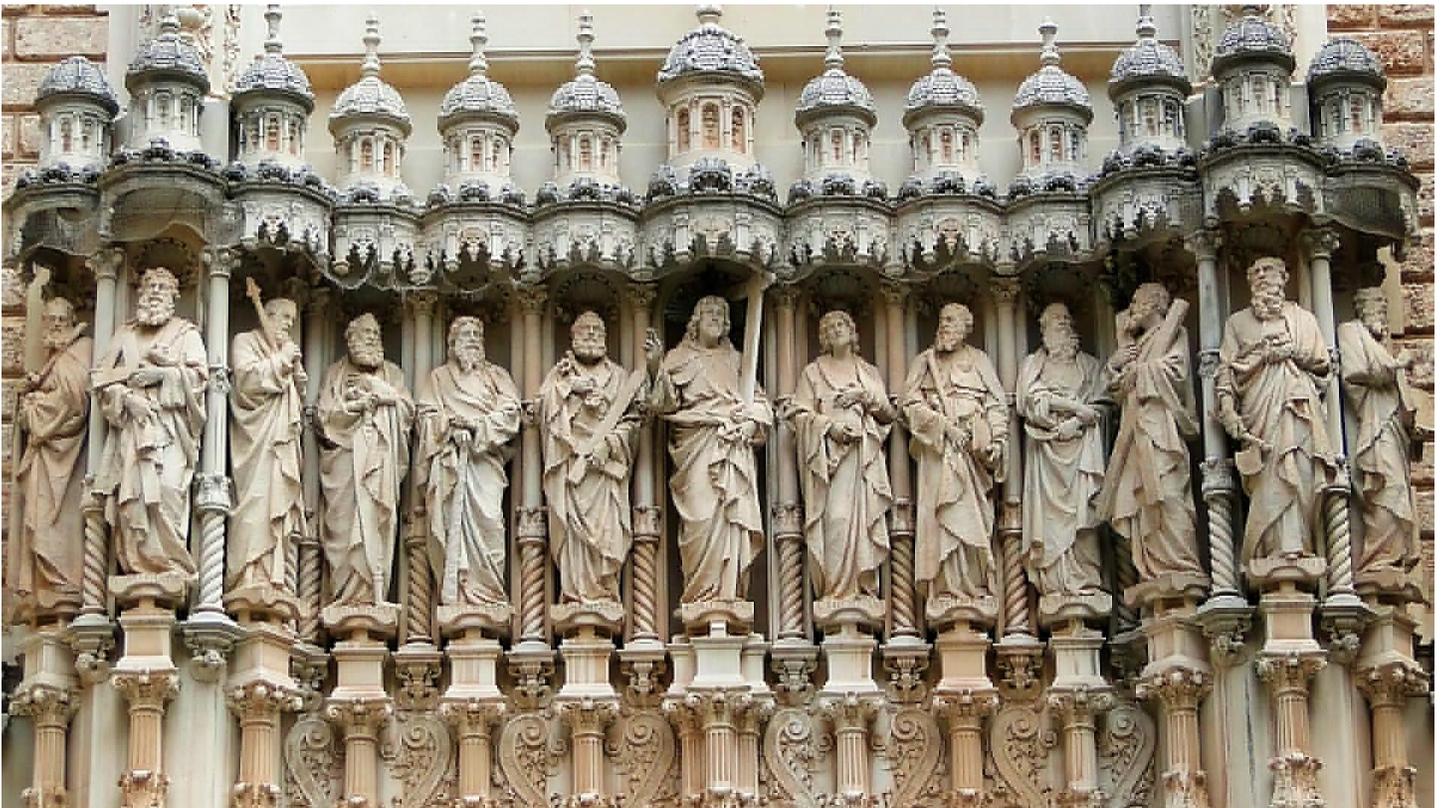
You will be incompetent. By definition, incompetent. If you were competent there would be nothing to learn! That can be frustrating, that feeling of being overwhelmed.

You will make mistakes and those mistakes must be pointed out and corrected. That can be humiliating, that feeling of being chastised. You can be prideful and allow that to embarrass you, or you can be humble and allow that to teach you.

Most people quit learning at some point in their lives, not because they know all that they need to know, but because they are too full of pride to learn – they are what God calls the unteachable. The only way you can come to Jesus and be Saved is to be teachable enough to learn what the Father has revealed about Him. That's why God tells us that He actively opposes

the proud but lavishes His Grace upon the humble (James 4:6, I Peter 5:5, etc.).

The vast crowd of disciples were unteachable, and they had heard enough, and so, they walked out on Jesus because the teaching of the Father through Him was intolerable. It was intolerable because they were not humble enough to question what they thought they knew.



Well, what about His hand-selected Apostles? John 6:67-71, 67So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” 68Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have

words of eternal life. 69“We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

70Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” 71Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

That’s a “good news, bad news,” sort of scenario. Even among those closest to Him – those intimately connected with His ministry, those seeing all that He did, and all that He taught, and all that He was, there were some, at least one in this case, who rejected the Jesus that they came to know.

If you’ve been around Christianity for very long at all you’ve seen people who you thought were super Christians who fell away from the faith, sometimes leaving with a whimper and sometimes blowing out with a roar.

What gives? That’s a question often contemplated. Well, it’s two things really. Sometimes a person gets messed up and they rebel, much like the younger son in Jesus’ so-called Prodigal Son parable. They are Christians and they will hurt Christ, His Body, and

mostly themselves, but in the end, Jesus will never lose them.

The second, probably larger group, is the fair-weather Christians. Essentially, Christians in name only. They play at it for a whole host of reasons and many of them genuinely believe that they are Christians, but tough times reveal their true character. Ultimately, the truth that “they were never of us” is revealed. As the guy said, ‘The fact that there’s a “Highway to Hell,” and only a “Stairway to Heaven,” says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.’

The painfully obvious question for us today, is will we be those “Disciples who withdrew and were not walking with Jesus anymore.”? Will we turn out to be “A devil” like “Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, who was going to betray Jesus.”?

The very best way that you can be certain is to seek the true Biblical Jesus and not a Jesus that is more to your liking. Reject the Jesus who allows you to remain in your comfort zone. I promise you; the true Jesus will never allow you to remain like a person without Him... It's possible to resist that constant pressure to

transform, but with the real Jesus it will be there, nonetheless.

It's true that Jesus accepts you just the way you are, but He has no intention of letting you be satisfied with that life. What I'm saying is that if you don't find following Jesus to be challenging, you're not following the true Jesus.

After the conflict between Jesus and the remnants of the crowd had reached its terminus with their outright rejection of Him, Jesus turned to His Apostles and asked them bluntly if they wanted out too.



Peter represents the consensus position of the Twelve and His answer is actually quite perfect. It is very much like one of my favorite statements in the Bible found in Mark 9:24. There the distraught father of a demon-possessed boy answered Jesus by crying out in honest desperation, “I do believe; help my unbelief.” This is like that. It isn’t necessarily the answer you wish that you could give, but it’s the best answer you can honestly give. “Lord, to whom shall we go?”

Within such a statement is also a plea for help. When the Apostles make their initial statement of faith it’s formed as a question. It means we want to believe, but would you help our lack of belief?

Peter continued for the group “You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.” That’s pretty good stuff, and it reminds me how we all vacillate between statements of confident belief and questions of hesitant faith.

It's not only okay to admit a lack of faith – it is actually vital. No one is faking out God. It is critically important to be honest with both God, and with yourself, about

your faith. Every thinking, self-aware, and honest person can use more faith. When you have questions, it does no good to simply ignore them. Everyone has questions, so the one asking no questions is either not thinking, or they are merely pretending that they don't have any questions.

When we're honest about that, we can seek help. Primarily from God Himself directly in the form of praying for the Holy Spirit to increase our faith and secondarily, indirectly from God, by consulting His teachers.

In both cases you need to be a bit cautious. You need to validate what you believe God is telling you in prayer with His established Word – the Bible. You need to trust those teachers who have proven themselves to be trustworthy teachers of what the Bible actually means.

The Apostles, as a group of 12 dudes, agree that they are going to continue to trust Jesus even though they have been rocked by His teaching to the crowd.

This is an incredibly important concept. In your walk with Jesus, you will find that there will be a series of

tweaks, irritations, trials, and tribulations, all designed to push you into deeper faith.

Guess what? You get to decide each and every time whether you will allow the challenge to mature your faith or to derail your faith. Derailment will, at a minimum, slow your maturation process as a Christian and therefore limit your impact on the Kingdom. It will stunt your relationship with God and your use to the Lord. That's the best-case scenario.

Worst case is you become a Judas who actively betrays Jesus. There are levels between those two extremes, but none of them are good. You can always choose to press into the Lord and utilize the teachers that He has provided to turn the problem into an opportunity for growth.



You can rarely affect what happens to you, but you always can control the way you respond. Judas was almost certainly a Zealot himself or a man with great sympathy for their cause. The Zealots were responsible for the war with Rome that ended the Jewish state, the city of Jerusalem, and the Temple in 70 A.D. They, like all Jews, believed that when Messiah came, Heaven would come to earth with Him, and the Jews would be large and in charge forevermore. Unlike the other Jewish factions, they believed that God was waiting for them to step out in faith and start the war. That's what they did in 66 A.D. It is estimated that over

a million Jews were killed and over 100,000 taken into slavery.



The Temple Mount became a literal garbage dump for 600 years until the Muslims took over and built their holy places there. The Jewish Temple cannot be built without demolishing the third-holiest place in Islam.

Judas became increasingly disappointed in Jesus because Jesus wasn't who Judas wanted Him to be. He was too proud to give up what he thought he knew and embrace what the Father was teaching through Jesus.



Either you or Jesus will need to change. Well, I just have to say that Jesus is Who Jesus is, and He's not going to change for you. It would be dumb for perfection to change into something imperfect, but as a pure existent being Who is by definition unchanging and unchangeable it isn't going to happen. So, the question is, will you change for Him?