

QA: Why Is It So Hard to Have Faith Today? by John T Polk II

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Why is it so hard to have faith today?

ANSWER: Faith takes effort, and many don't "strive."

Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (Luke 13:24)

1. **Struggle To Believe:** After Jesus had died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day, He appeared to the Apostles,

When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. (Matthew 28:17)

Doubted" simply means their mind was divided on how far to go with belief. To them, Jesus then said,

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Today, people believe Jesus is the Christ, but are not sure about being baptized. Listen to the Lord who loves you and was raised from the dead. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Difficulties For Christians: Before becoming a disciple of the Lord, Paul said, "I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme"
 (Acts 26:11). He had tried to make them speak against Jesus. As a Christian, Paul wrote,

I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed. (1 Corinthians 12:3)

No one following the Holy Spirit's inspired Scriptures will contradict Jesus Christ. By the Holy Spirit, who can say: Jesus did not build His church (Matthew 16:18)? Purchase His church with His blood (Acts 20:28)? give sinners "redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7)? Reject baptism to "wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16)? "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13).

3. Jesus' Family: A woman's voice above the crowd "said to Him,

"Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:27- 28)

Jesus was born of Mary, the only virgin mother, ever! And, yet, His spiritual family means more to Him than she did! Before this incident, some had "said,

"Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it." (Luke 8:20-21)

His spiritual family is "the house of God, which is the church of the living God" (1 Timothy 3:15), composed of all who "call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:2). Have you been taught to hate His family?

——- jtpll, 9/24/2023