

## How to Get a Thumbs Up from Jesus

Jesus spells out in detail the process we must all go through to answer some of the most daunting questions when it comes to our faith.

*John 6: 32 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." 35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

### When it comes to our faith, what should Jesus expect from us?

Genuine faith makes Jesus smile

*Matthew 8: 10 Taken aback, Jesus said, "I've yet to come across this kind of simple trust in Israel, the very people who are supposed to know all about God and how he works.*

### When it comes to faith, Jesus gives us a thumbs up when...

1. WE SEEK HIM (JESUS) AND NOT A SIGN. (John 6:26, 30)

*John 6: 36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.*

Two reasons why we cannot use signs to create faith:

- A. Others besides Jesus can perform signs as well (Matthew 24:24—false messiahs and prophets/2 Thessalonians 2:9—Satan)
- B. A sign's purpose is not to create faith in Jesus but to point us to...Jesus.

*Hebrews 11: 1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

2. OUR FAITH HAS A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP TO WORKS. (James 2:14-18)

Martin Luther, *"The sort of faith that justifies is "fides viva", a "living faith". Faith inevitably, necessarily, and immediately yields the fruit of righteousness."*

### Justification is by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone.

Believing in Jesus was never enough...

*James 2: 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

### Faith without works is demonic belief.

3. OUR FAITH IS SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

The seal of faith for the Jews: circumcision

The seal of faith for Jesus: The Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)

In the ancient world, to carry around the seal of someone meant four things:

- a. That you took on their identity
- b. That you have membership with the giver of the seal
- c. That the giver of the seal owned you
- d. That the giver of the seal sent with you his power and protection.

A Christian who has not been changed by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit is merely an actor playing the part...of a Christian.