Thou Hast Fully Known My Faith

Intro: Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses instead of remaining faithful to what God instructed. The false teachers of Paul’s day were not faithful to God, thus their folly would be manifest to men. Paul, on the other hand, had been faithful to God and he tells Timothy that he already knew fully concerning his faithfulness; 2 Tim. 3:10 “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience.”

However, there is a discussion as to whether Paul means objective faith (God’s Word or what Paul believed) or subjective faith (his own faithfulness or trust in God). Paul’s statement might include both aspects.

I. Paul’s Faith (Objective)
   A. His knowledge of Jesus as being the Christ.
      1. Seeing Jesus on the road to Damascus.
      2. Evidence by which he could prove Jesus is the Christ; Acts 9:20 “And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.”
   B. His knowledge of his message being of Divine origin
      1. 2 Tim. 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”
      2. 1 Cor. 2:12-13 “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”
      3. Gal. 1:11-12 “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
   C. His knowledge of the blessings found in that Divine Message.
      1. Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”
      2. Salvation; 2 Tim. 2:10 “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”
      3. Peace and joy; Phi. 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. 7 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 8 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 9 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
      4. Purpose and meaning to life; Phi. 3:13-14 “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

II. Paul’s Faith (Subjective)
   A. This faith would be what we would call faithfulness.
   B. Paul was faithful in spite of:
      1. His background
         a. Family religion
            (1) He was raised a Jew; Phi. 3:4-7 “Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 7 Circumcised the
eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; "Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."

(2) He studied under Gamaliel, one of the great teachers of the Law of that day; Acts 22:3 “I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day."

b. The sins he had committed:
(1) Gal. 1:13-14 “For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14 And profited in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.”

(2) 1 Tim. 1:13, 15 “Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.... 15This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”

2. Persecution; 2 Cor. 11:24-27 “Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. 25Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”

3. Circumstances; Phi. 4:11-13 “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

4. False allegations concerning him
a. Acts 24:5-6, 13 “For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes: "Who also hath gone about to profane the temple: whom we took, and would have judged according to our law....13Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me."

b. He often had to defend his apostleship because the Judaizers alleged he was no apostle.

5. False teachers

b. Hymenaeus and Alexander; 1 Tim. 1:19-20 “Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: 20Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

c. Hymenaeus and Philetus; 2 Tim. 2:17-18 “And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”

6. Fair-weather Christians
a. 2 Tim. 1:15 “This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.”

b. 2 Tim. 4:10 “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.”
c. 2 Tim. 4:16 “At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.”

C. Faithfulness to God and His Word was all that was important to Paul.
1. Phi. 3:8, 13-14 “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ...” Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”
2. He had a single-eye devotion; Mat. 6:22 “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”

D. At the end of his life, he had lived faithful.
1. 2 Tim. 4:7 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”
2. He was seeking a heavenly reward.
   a. 2 Cor. 4:16-5:1 “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 5:1For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”
   b. Rom. 8:17-18 “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 18For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

E. We also must remain faithful to the end.
1. Mat. 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”
2. Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
3. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

Conclusion: Because of Paul’s faith in God and His Word, he remained faithful to the end and received the crown of life. If we remain faithful to the end, we also will receive the crown of life; 2 Tim. 4:7-8 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”