

The Leap of Faith

John 8:31

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Are you a Christian? If so, when and how did you become one? Are you a disciple? If so, when and how did you become one?
2. Paraphrase John 8:31 without using the words “hold”, “abide”, “teaching”, “word(s)” or “disciples.” What do you think Jesus is saying? Do you believe this verse describes you? Why or why not?
3. Read John 8:32. How sure are you that Jesus (as opposed to other religious leaders) is the source of truth? What gives you assurance? What causes you to doubt?
4. Read John 8:34-36. In what areas of your life has obedience to Jesus set you free? In what areas are you in bondage because of sinful habits? How do you think you can begin to break those destructive habits?
5. How would you explain John 8:51 to a person who stubbornly—and rightly—defends the doctrine of salvation by faith alone? What passages of Scripture could you use to harmonize John 8:51 with John 3:16?

■ Disciples _____

John 8:32; see also John 1:17; 14:6; 18:38

■ Disciples _____

John 8:32; see also John 15:10-11; Romans 6:18, 22; 8:2; James 1:22-25

■ Disciples _____

John 8:51; see also Matthew 7:21-27; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 John 2:3-4

Christ-quote to memorize: John 8:31:

*To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said,
“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.”*