

## **“Shallow Faith”**

John 2:23-25

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### **1. The Reality of Shallow Faith (2:23)**

*“Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing”*

### **2. Jesus’ Resistance to Shallow Faith (2:24)**

*“But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting [“did not commit” KJV] Himself to them, for He knew all men”*

### **3. The Reason for Shallow Faith (2:25)**

*“and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man”*

#### **Notes:**

**2:23- “believed”** is *πιστευσαν*, aorist tense of *pisteuo*, the aorist is in contrast to the imperfect tense of the same verb in 2:24; “This contrast extends to the tenses: the first is an aorist to indicate the closed act, ‘trusted,’ which trust, however, rested only on the signs; the second [in 2:24] is an imperfect, leaving the eventual outcome open, ‘was not entrusting himself,’ i.e., waiting to see what the faith of the ‘many’ would prove to be” (Lenski, p. 224)

**2:24- “entrusting”** is *πιστευεν*, imperfect tense of *pisteuo*...the exact same verb as in 2:23 but in a different tense to mark a specific contrast...the fickle mob ‘believed’ in Jesus’ miracles [signs] but Jesus did not ‘believe’ in the fickle mob because He knew their hearts and motives; this same fickle mob would shout “crucify Him, crucify Him!” three years later before Pilate...giving evidence of their shallow, superficial, misguided faith (cf. 6:61, 64-66)