

The Trying of Your Faith

February 19, 2017

- Faith is the supernatural conviction of knowing what cannot be discerned by the natural senses: the spiritual eyes to see Him Who is invisible, the spiritual ears to hear Him Who is inaudible, the spiritual heart and mind to know Him Who is incomprehensible.

Hebrews 11:1 NASB

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1 Peter 1:8-9 NASB

8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

Faith is to the Christian what oxygen is to the human body. It's impossible to live without.

"A spiritual kingdom lies all about us, enclosing us, embracing us, altogether within reach of our inner selves, waiting for us to recognize it. God Himself is here waiting our response to His Presence. This eternal world will come alive to us the moment we begin to reckon upon its reality." -- A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God, Chapter 4

Hebrews 11:24-27 NASB

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 NASB

6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord--

7 for we walk by faith, not by sight--

8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

"Every man must choose his world." -- A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God, Chapter 4

Colossians 3:1-2 NASB

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Hebrews 11:6 NASB

6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

- Faith is a supernatural gift from God; birthed by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8-9 NASB

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 1:17-19 NASB

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Mark 9:21-24 NASB

21 And He [Jesus] asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.

22 "It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!"

23 And Jesus said to him, "**If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes.**"

24 Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "**I do believe; help my unbelief.**"

Romans 10:14-18 NASB

14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!*"

16 **However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"**

17 **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.**

18 But I say, **surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have;** "*Their voice has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.*"

John 16:13-15 NASB

13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth;** for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He **will disclose** (*anaggellō - make known, rehearse, show, announce*) **to you** what is to come.

14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and **will disclose** (*anaggellō - make known, rehearse, show, announce*) **it to you.**

15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and **will disclose** (*anaggellō - make known, rehearse, show, announce*) **it to you.**

- **Faith is not a prisoner of circumstances.**

2 Kings 6:15-17 NASB

15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

16 So he answered, "**Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**"

17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, **open his eyes that he may see.**" And **the LORD opened the servant's eyes** and **he saw;** and behold, **the mountain was full of horses** and **chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NASB

16 Therefore **we do not lose heart,** but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed **day by day.**

17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

18 **while 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.

- **Faith cannot be comprehended, explained or contained by human reason or logic.**

John 11:39-40 NASB

39 Jesus said, "**Remove the stone.**" Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, **by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.**"

40 Jesus said to her, "**Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?**"

Matthew 14:24-29 NASB

24 But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea.

26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, **command me to come to You on the water.**"

29 And He said, "**Come!**" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

- **Faith is the anchor of our emotions.**

"The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety."

-- George Muller, 1805-1898, cared for over 10,000 orphans in England

Psalm 42:5 NASB

5 **Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence.**

2 Corinthians 4:7-9 NASB

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

8 **we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;**

9 **persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;**

Philippians 4:6-7 NASB

6 **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

7 **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Acts 7:55-60 NASB

55 **But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;**

56 and he said, "**Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.**"

57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.

58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 **They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"**

60 **Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.**

The Exercising, Maturing and Purifying of Our Faith by Tests and Trials

"Wherever God has given faith, it is given, among other reasons, for the very purpose of being tried."

-- George Muller

1 Peter 1:6-7 ESV

6 In this you rejoice, **though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,**
7 **so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

- *God has a sovereign plan for your life - but it's not a plan of temporal achievement nor worldly possessions.*
- *God's sovereign plan for your life is the exercising, maturing and purifying of your faith, by putting your faith through tests and trials.*
- *If you refuse to give up, even in the failures of your faith (unbelief) or character (sin), absolutely nothing can thwart, derail or retard God's plan of grooming your faith.*
- *God will use the defeats and the failures in the exercising, maturing and purifying of your faith, just as much and even more than the victories and successes.*

Romans 4:18-22 NASB

18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, *"so shall your descendants be."*

19 **Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb;**

20 **yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,**
21 **and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.**

22 *Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness.*

"You must ask for God's help. Even when you have done so, it may seem to you for a long time that no help, or less help than you need, is being given. Never mind. After each failure, ask forgiveness, pick yourself up, and try again. Very often what God first helps us towards is not the virtue itself but just this power of always trying again." — C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

James 1:2-4 NASB

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 **knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.**

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Genesis 22:1-3 NASB

1 Now it came about after these things, **that God tested Abraham,** and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

2 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

3 **So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.**