

FRIDAY

*“FAITH PUTS THE LIGHT ON YOU,
OR ON GOD”*

SCRIPTURE:

I Kings 18:30-39; 17:1

We look at some of the things Elijah and men like him did in Biblical times and decide that their kind of faith must have been a great deal different from ours. Who today has ever called down fire from heaven, or caused a drought by a word or accomplished anything to equal these acts?

Because of his faith, Elijah will be remembered for generations by us.

But at that time, it was God who was remembered by those people, God to whom the attention was drawn by those mighty acts of faith.

The big difference between Elijah and us *is* his faith in God. He would pray — and then turn the people toward God to await the fulfillment of his request. No rationalization. No doubt. When it was granted, he said, “This is the one true God! Hear Him!”

Today after we have prayed about something almost impossible, and it is granted, we begin to say, “Well, it probably would have happened anyway . . . it was ‘fate’ . . . coincidence.”

We are still too used to looking to things, to people, to science to accomplish our requests until when God does work in mighty ways, in our pride and ignorance, we miss the excitement and thrill of standing aside and letting people see our God!

Prayer: Lord, faith is something we can all have if we are willing to depend upon Thee and the things which Thou hast done for us. Forgive us for our blindness and pride, Lord, we pray. AMEN

SATURDAY

“FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE”

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 37:4-6; Hebrews 11:1

*“Faith is the substance of things hoped for.” What is substance? We think of it as something we can handle and actually touch. But substance is also described as “the reality”

Air is real but it is difficult to hold it or handle it — unless it is confined in something like a balloon. Hope can be like air — difficult to keep hold of— until we have faith. Then faith gives it shape and substance, holds it or gives us something to hold onto.

Have you ever deep in your heart wanted something so much and prayed for it earnestly — then suddenly you stopped because you *knew* it would be granted! You held it in your heart . . .

This is faith. And it is a gift of God. We do not know how He gives it to us, we only know it comes. Without it, life is meaningless and void. Without it, hope is talking to oneself.

Faith is God’s balloon for our innermost hopes and desires—the promise of His presence, the reality of hope.

Prayer: God, it is hard for me sometimes to separate faith from hoping. Yet, Lord, as I grow in Thee, make me aware of the difference. Show me the poise and quietness that comes with trusting Thee, so that more and more I can relinquish my hopes to Thee in faith, knowing that they are held in Thy hand. And may my own desires never outweigh my deeper desire to know Thy will and trust it. AMEN

*King James version

Daily Family Devotions

The thought begins in the Bible verse;
please take the time to read it first.

MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021

“FAITH TO THE NTH DEGREE.”

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:41

(Read the “Faith Chapter” — Hebrews 11)

You pray for a specific thing — a certain position on the team, an office you would like to be elected to, or the love of a particular person

— and then you end your prayer with, “If it be Thy will, God.” Do you know what is meant by that? What do you mean?

If you are a Christian, you know that the secret of success is to find God’s will for you in life. It’s the only way to be all you were meant to be — a whole, successful person.

But go a step further; it also means your life as it fits into the pattern of God’s whole plan — the big picture and not merely the isolated personal wishes we clutch to our hearts.

This leads to a whole new dimension in faith: faith that God can see farther than we can, beyond today into tomorrow. So we are using our deep faith to the nth degree when we say, “Nevertheless, not my will but Thine, Lord!” It is not a Pollyanna phrase — and don’t use it unless you understand fully what you are saying. If you really do want God to prepare the perfect way for you, if you really want Him to be the judge of what is best, then — when someone else is given that team position, elected to that office or walks off with the one you love, then you will say even through your tears, “Thank You, Lord” — because you know He did it for the best.

Prayer: This is the hardest thing to do — to put You first above my own desires, to put Your will above mine. God please help me to do this for it alone leads to true peace. AMEN

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TUESDAY

“WHAT DO WE DARE PRAY FOR
WITH FAITH?”

SCRIPTURE:
Romans 5:1-5

Not one of us has been spared the deep disappointment, and even hurt, of unanswered prayer. We try to say, “God knows best —” but inside, our unfulfilled desire keeps aching and turning over and we can’t really forget.

Children particularly have difficulty in understanding why prayers do not always come to be answered. They know that a parent will usually grant a request that is deeply enough wanted — and God is supposed to love them more than their parents . . .

The secret probably lies in what Christ and Paul often point out to us in their teachings: the importance of *becoming* that which God intended us to become. This does not always jibe with our own ambitions. Perhaps we prefer doing one thing, becoming one type of person, but God knowing our inner-most potential says, “No; your greatest joy and fulfillment lies along another road.”

And that is what life is — a road; and each prayer, each decision we may make, is a path or trail leading to that main highway along which we are intended to go. No one wants to travel the whole journey on a footpath . . . we all head for the freeway when we are on our way to a particular place.

More and more as you look back over “unanswered prayer,” you will see . . . God in His wisdom did keep you from dangerous or time-wasting detours.

Prayer: Lord, more and more may I accept Thy “refusals” as Your hand upon me and may I even learn to be grateful for Thy care in leading me. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“SO YOU HAVE FAITH — IN WHAT?”

SCRIPTURE:
Genesis 17:1-9; 15:1-18

Faith is unique. It is belief not based upon proof. Do you know what that implies? That your faith in God is rooted — not in any proof that He must do what you ask — but simply in the belief that He *is able* to do what you ask if it is His will.

You do not have proof that He *will*, but you know that He *can*. (Genesis 15:6)

We have all experienced this kind of faith in someone we love — a mother or father, a trusted friend. We may not always know precisely what they will do in a given situation where we are concerned, but our faith in *them* gives us faith in the outcome of anything they may do regarding us.

This is faith. This quality knows no panic or frenzy because it is not based upon a happening or single act. It is based upon a person, on love . . . and divine faith is based on the power and quality of divine love!

And this is how we must define our faith when we speak of it. It is not merely faith that such-and-such will happen as we want it to. It is faith that God will perform it as it should be performed — perhaps not always as we pray it.

People who speak blithely of “Having faith” period are walking in an illusion — are trusting something that is simply not there. Unless they trust in God, their faith is no more than coincidence, luck, a gamble . . .

Prayer: Lord, sometimes faith itself becomes my god and I trust in it, not remembering that it in itself is always dependent. Forgive me. AMEN

THURSDAY

“YOU’LL NEVER KNOW TILL YOU JUMP!”

SCRIPTURE:
Nahum 1:7; Psalm 118:8, 9

A high-wire artist was training his young son to follow him in his daring act. As the child became more skilled, the father raised the wire higher until one day the wire was up to height where a fall could mean serious injury or death. At this time the father placed a large net beneath, which was designed especially to support the weight of a falling body.

Until this time, the boy had not had a sense of fear. But now — looking down into the net so far below — he said, “How will I know it will be strong enough to catch me, Father?”

To which the father replied, “You won’t know until you jump into it.”

The father, loving the child, knew the strength of the net. He now wanted the boy to test, not just the net, but the father’s wisdom and judgment, his preparatory love.

It is like this with us and God. So often we are afraid to literally take a leap of faith! We still do not fully trust God’s love for us, or the precautions He has made for us.

Don’t be afraid. Only through trusting Him, only through testing this wonderful faith He has given you — can you ever know real security in this tricky life. But remember — it is faith in God — not yourself which is your power.

Prayer: Lord, may I keep my eyes upon Thy love for me, and not upon the things that threaten or make me afraid. Help me, O God, to trust Thee with my life. AMEN