

Faith

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)



The Berean Lamp
For the Body of Christ.

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The Berean Lamp Ministry seeks to:

1. Encourage and strengthen the Body of Christ by providing the means for each of its members to share their spiritual gifts with one another, rooted in the Word of God, thereby growing into deeper union with one another and with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
2. Minister to non-believers; be a witness for Christ and a testimony to His Body in the world.

We would appreciate your help in contributing to the content and in spreading the work of this ministry. Thank you, and God bless.

- Pastor Scott Moller





Faith That Saves

By Scott Moller

“I the LORD do not change.” (Malachi 3:6a NIV)

During the ministry of the prophet Elijah, Ahab was king of Israel. Ahab was married to the wicked queen Jezebel. Ahab and Jezebel abandoned Jehovah, the God of Israel, and actively promoted the worship of Baal, a pagan god. For these actions, God punished Ahab and Israel by withholding rain for three-and-a-half years from the land of Israel.

At the end of the three-and-a-half years, Elijah confronted Ahab with a challenge to determine who the true God was: Jehovah or Baal. Elijah had the prophets of Baal meet him on Mount Carmel for the proposed test. Each side would prepare an altar and sacrifice, one for Jehovah and one for Baal. Jehovah was represented by Elijah, and Baal was represented by 850 prophets. The test required each side to call on their respective god to send fire from heaven to burn up the sacrifices. The god that sent fire to consume the sacrifice would be deemed the true God.

The prophets of Baal prepared their sacrifice, called on Baal to send fire, and danced around their altar, but no fire came. By midday, Elijah began to taunt them, which caused them to cry out more frantically. They began to slash and cut themselves, hoping Baal would respond, but nothing happened. They desperately sought Baal until evening, at which time Elijah stopped them.

Elijah prepared his sacrifice with one modification. He had his sacrifice drenched with water to remove any doubt the onlookers might have. He then prayed to God that He might send fire and demonstrate that He was the true

God. Immediately, fire came down from heaven, consuming the sacrifice and even the stones of the altar. Any doubt the people of Israel had was removed that day. Jehovah proved Himself to be God and that Baal was false.

The prophets of Baal were men of faith. They were not faking their faith. They really believed Baal to be a real god that could send fire from heaven. In spite of their genuine faith, they were executed that day for being false prophets. Solomon stated in Proverbs 14:12, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”* These false prophets put their faith in that which seemed right to them, but in the end it led to death.

In the world today, many people think that God only requires our genuine or sincere faith, regardless of what that faith is in. To most people, this is an appealing teaching because it appears to make almost everyone acceptable to God. The problem with this teaching is that it is false and leads to hell.

Jesus warned us in Matthew 7:14 that *“small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”* We dare not be careless about where we place our faith. The eternal stakes could not be higher nor should they be underestimated. Jesus declared in John 14:6, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father **except** through me.”* Be sure your faith is in the saving sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Your eternal destiny depends on it.

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"If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." (Luke 17:6)

Postcards

His Faithfulness Reaches to the Clouds

By Natalie Madsen

*"Your steadfast love, O LORD,
extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the
clouds.*

*Your righteousness is like the
mountains of God;
your judgments are like the
great deep." (Psalm 36:5-6)*



THY MERCY, O LORD, IS IN THE HEAVENS;
AND THY FAITHFULNESS REACHETH UNTO THE CLOUDS.
:: PSALM 36:4-6 ::

Faith Like a Centurion

By Nathan Warner

“If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:20)

Nothing will be impossible for you if you have Faith. Have you ever had a mountain in your life you wanted to move? Have you ever wanted to be like those *“who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight”* (Hebrews 11:33-34)?

We see examples of these “heroes” of the Faith throughout Scripture. Take Elijah when King Ahaziah sent his captain to detain him. Elijah said, *“If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty*” (2 Kings 1:10). Wow. Elijah could call fire down from heaven! It seems like God has given him superhuman powers to do whatever he wanted to do because he was a man of faith. Boy, can you imagine if we only had faith like that – we could banish illness, feed hunger, and vaporize car payments to say nothing about turning the country around.

How about Peter and the lame beggar? *“And Peter directed his gaze at (the lame beggar), as did John, and said, ‘Look at us.’ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, ‘I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!’ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God”* (Acts 3:1-8).

When we hear about stories like this, we

may get the impression that God gave men superpowers because of their faith. We could come away thinking that faith is a blank check to tap God’s infinite bank account for things we need, things we feel God must want, things that seem good to us, or things that we think will glorify Him. After all, God wants His children to be happy, doesn’t He? So why shouldn’t we be prosperous? Why shouldn’t we be successful? Why shouldn’t we be healed? If we could only increase our faith, we would be able to be “special” and “important” to God on earth.

Faith is often treated as the Holy Grail of Christianity. If we only have faith, then we wouldn’t have sickness and disease, our children wouldn’t go astray, the country would turn around, and we’d have revival, health, prosperity, and happiness. Faith becomes power. This view of faith has been sold by religious frauds and peddlers as a “Cure All.” They know that *“faith is the substance of things hoped for”* (Hebrews 11:1a) and so they position themselves as the toll masters on the bridge to the untold riches available through faith, charging pilgrims to cross to the other side where they’ve been told the grass is greener. Like Simon the Magician in the Book of Acts, we poor, helpless believers will do anything for power against evil: *“when Simon saw that the [Holy] Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, saying, ‘Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit’”* (Acts 8:18-19).

Simon, who claimed to be a believer, was eager to part with his money to receive the power of faith. We may think this is odd, but many people today do a similar thing when they spend money to buy books, CDs, and videos or pay to attend conferences and meetings that deal with improving our faith for healthy living, curing illness, increasing prosperity, turning the country around, etc. They part with money in an attempt to gain power by following “how-to” faith-building exercises.

Part of the difficulty is that events in the Scriptures can often be interpreted to support this view of “power by faith.” We often see

the miraculous events in the Old and New Testaments as acts of pure faith that gave the Prophets and the Apostles the power they were asking for to do what they wanted.

If we claim this view of faith, we are missing half the picture. There is another side to faith that we also read about in Hebrews – those who, in faith, *“were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth”* (Hebrews 11:35b-38). If this too is faith, then what on earth is faith?

I struggled with this when I was younger. I used to think that if we only had enough faith, anything would be possible for me. If I broke my leg, I could have faith in God and He would heal me. If I went blind, I’d just have to have faith that God would give me back my sight and He would. It wasn’t until a good Christian friend I knew went through a terrible illness that my understanding of faith matured. I read Hebrews Chapter 11 with a new understanding and also discovered the example of the Roman Centurion who Jesus said had more faith than anyone in Israel.

I think the Centurion is one of the clearest pictures we are given of true faith. When Jesus said He would come with the Centurion to heal his servant, the Centurion replied, *“Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it”* (Matthew 8:7-9). The Centurion understood that his request would have to be the will of God for it to happen. He resigned himself to God’s will in the situation and correctly presented himself as a servant of Jesus and a soldier under the command of God’s will, hopeful for the miraculous

but also willing to experience the tragic.

Anyone who knows about military history (past or present) knows that without discipline, responsibility, and obedience, an army is completely worthless. The foundational objective of Basic Training is to instill in soldiers discipline, responsibility, and “instinctive obedience” so that they will carry out any order they are delivered on the battlefield without hesitation, regardless of whether they think it is right or not. Questioning orders is not acceptable because the soldier does not know his commander’s battle plans. He is where he is at on the battlefield in order to carry out and follow his commander’s order when it arrives. He is not given a tank and told, “Do whatever you want with it, son – it’s got a full tank.”

This Roman Centurion understood that those under his command were utterly bound to his will and would do whatever he told them, even if they did not know what it was they were doing. He understood that this was how he had to approach the Lord – in complete and total Faith. Such discipline! Such responsibility! Such obedience! This is the true definition of faith.

Faith is an act of complete and total obedience to God and God’s will in a situation. It is not a magical password that opens some mystical portal to heaven for blessings and power to come back upon you whenever you feel you need it. Faith is not the moving of mountains that you don’t like or the uprooting of trees at your command. Faith is going where God tells you to go and doing what He tells you to do. Faith is clinging to God and trusting Him in every situation He leads us into.

When we understand this, we see that the great acts and miracles of Scripture were not initiated by men in their compassion for people who were suffering, for their sense of justice, nor for their righteous indignation. They were motivated and moved by their complete obedience to the will of God in the time and the place when the order came through, whether to *“escape the edge of the sword”* or be *“killed with the sword.”*

Lives of the Christians

"A sinning man stops praying, a praying man stops sinning."

"Men give advice; God gives guidance."



Leonard Ravenhill

"God pity us that after years of writing, using mountains of paper and rivers of ink, exhausting flashy terminology about the biggest revival meetings in history, we are still faced with gross corruption in every nation, as well as with the most prayerless church age since Pentecost."

Leonard Ravenhill
Preacher and Author



"Today's church wants to be raptured from responsibility."

"Entertainment is the devil's substitute for joy."

"Are the things you are living for worth Christ dying for?"

"If weak in prayer, we are weak everywhere."

"If Jesus had preached the same message that ministers preach today, He would never have been crucified."

"The Church used to be a lifeboat rescuing the perishing. Now she is a cruise ship recruiting the promising."

Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994) was an evangelist, preacher, and author from England who widely addressed the need for prayer and revival in the Church, challenging it to return to its roots in the early Church as chronicled in the Book of Acts. Born in Leeds, England, Ravenhill was educated at Cliff College and learned under the ministry of Samuel Chadwick. Ravenhill studied Church history and became particularly interested in revival. He held evangelistic meetings during the Second World War that drew large crowds with many converts dedicating themselves to foreign missions. Ravenhill married an Irish nurse named Martha in 1939, and they had three sons together. In 1950, they moved to America and held tent revivals and evangelistic meetings throughout the United States. Ravenhill took a home near Lindale, Texas, in the 1980s and taught at Last Days Ministries. He also taught at Bethany College of Missions in Minnesota. He died in 1994 and is interred at Garden Valley Cemetery in Garden Valley, Texas. Ravenhill was a close friend of pastor and author A.W. Tozer and influenced many notable preachers and evangelists, including David Wilkerson, Charles Stanley, and Ravi Zacharias. He wrote numerous books, including *Sodom Had No Bible* and *Why Revival Tarries*.

Apply Your Heart

By Beth Moller

"Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge." (Proverbs 23:12)

How do we grow as Christians? Is it by just going to church with your parents, singing hymns, and reading your Bible once in a while? I believe that growing as a Christian requires something more: the desire to grow in your personal relationship with Christ and to apply your heart and mind to learning the things that God wants us to learn. In Proverbs 23:12, Solomon says, "Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge."

There is so much that God wants us to know, but how can we learn if we do not apply ourselves to learning? After all, it's pretty hard to learn anything if you don't apply yourself to it! For example, I am not able to do a very good job on my math lesson if I don't pay attention as I am learning the concept that the lesson is on. To apply our hearts to instruction, we need to be good listeners and be willing to learn from what people around us are trying to teach us. When I hear "apply your heart," I think about giving something my full attention and working on it to the best of my abilities. First Corinthians 15:58 says, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." From that verse, we learn to "give our-

selves fully to the work of the Lord," because there is nothing more important than serving our Lord. And, by applying our hearts to instruction, we can grow even more.

Listening to words of knowledge and using our ears to listen to good things rather than evil things is very beneficial to us as we strive to grow in the Lord. We use our ears to listen to a lot of different things. Do you remember that song that I'm sure many of us learned as young children that says, *"Oh, be careful little ears, what you hear"*? When we hear evil things, it's very difficult to forget them. They seem burned into our brains. However, if we use our ears to listen to words of knowledge, we will have those words of knowledge burned into our brains. By listening to things that Christians share with us and listening to good Christian music, we can have good things in our mind! In Philippians 4:8, Paul and Timothy say, *"Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things."* This verse is saying that God even wants our thoughts to be good thoughts, as well as our actions and words to be God-honoring.

When I thought about an example of a person who listened to the advice of others and applied the instructions to his or her life, I thought of Ruth. I am sure that the story of Ruth is familiar to many of you, but I want to make a few points about how she applies to this verse. Ruth was a Moabite, but she was married to an Israelite who was the son of Elimelech and Naomi. After Naomi's husband and sons died, Naomi decided to move back to Bethlehem from where they were living in Moab. Naomi told her daughters-in-law to go back to their people instead of going with her to Bethlehem. But Ruth clung to Naomi and was determined to go with her. Ruth listened to Naomi's advice when she instructed her about Boaz and about gathering grain. By listening to Naomi's advice and applying the instruction to her life, Ruth was safe when working in the fields, and she met Boaz who was to become her husband. Also, through Boaz she

became one of only five women mentioned in the line of Christ! The Lord blessed Ruth in great ways, one of which was giving her Naomi to give her godly advice and instructions. Rather than letting these instructions fall on deaf ears, Ruth listened to her mother-in-law's advice, and the Lord blessed her for it with a godly husband. She listened to the words of knowledge that Naomi told her and learned from them.

No matter what age we are, we can always learn to *"apply our heart to instruction and our ears to words of knowledge."* Like Ruth, we should listen to godly advice and apply ourselves to learning. I challenge you today to use your ears to hear words of knowledge and to truly apply your heart to instruction. Many things in this world are easy, but the most rewarding things are often hard. We should strive to grow in the Lord and live for Him with our whole heart.



"The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than GOLD, yes, than much fine gold." (Psalm 19:9-10)

"Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever."

(Psalm 146:5-6)



He Keeps Faith Forever

By Ginny Larsen



"Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!"

(Psalm 24:7-8)

Lift Up Your Heads

By Ginny Larsen

Is Faith In God Rational?

By Jesse Larsen

Over the years, I have heard statements like "the Holy Spirit is not logical," "faith in God is not rational," or "if you have proof, then why do you need faith?"

Although such people (even from within the church) may have us believe that faith in God is some kind of a leap into the dark, the Bible itself tells us that "*faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*" (Hebrews 11:1). If a Christian is to describe such a faith as irrational, then I have to wonder what his or her definition of rational is.

Personally, I am not even sure exactly what Christians mean when they say that faith in God is not rational. I do not intend to be harsh by saying that, nor do I deny that such Christians mean well, but I honestly find that statement ("faith in God is not rational") to be confusing. I take a simple approach to the Bible, and I really think that people are only complicating things by stating that faith in God is not rational. In the Merriam Webster Dictionary, one of the definitions for rational is "relating to, based on, or agreeable to reason."

Is faith in God "relating to, based on, or agreeable to reason"? The Bible clearly indicates that it is: Isaiah 1:18 says, "*Come now, and let us **reason** together.*" If God intends to "reason" with mankind, then we can only conclude that faith in Him is indeed "relating to, based on, or agreeable to reason."

Is Your Hope Different From The World's?

Furthermore, the Bible also tells believers to "*be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a **reason** for the hope that is in you*" (1 Peter 3:15). Is it not rational to have a reason for the hope that is in us? I think the answer to that is rather obvious. And if someone has never asked you to explain the hope that is in you, perhaps it is because you are actually hoping in the entertaining, worldly pleasures and devices that the rest of the world

has been hoping in, and the world simply does not see any difference.

I believe that **both** the church and the professing church today are in a very tragic state, and this grieves my heart to no end. We have Christians and professing Christians who are trying to persuade atheists to come to Christ while convincing them that it is irrational to do so! Is it any wonder that there are so many atheists in the first place? I do not believe that atheists are excused for rejecting God, but when we consider all of the non-sense that is taking place in the name of Christianity, it should be no wonder that there are so many atheists in the first place, and it should be no wonder that hostility towards Christians is increasing.

The truth is that there is little difference between the professing church and the world today, and that is why the world does not recognize a different hope in most of those who call themselves "Christians." For example, much of Contemporary Christian Music is just an imitation of the world's music, and from what I have observed, even the ungodly realize how absurd it is when the church tries to Christianize worldly music - yet many professing believers remain blinded to such absurdity. The church also imitates the world's methods for being successful (e.g. psychology, so-called "positive" thinking, etc.), so it should be no wonder if the world does not ask them for a reason for the hope that is in them. They are hoping in the same things that the world is hoping in, and they do not appear to be any different from the world. So what else can we expect? If they were to hope in something that the world is not hoping in (i.e. Jesus Himself!) then the world may wonder why, and they may indeed ask for a reason for the hope that is in them.

Creation's Witness To Its Creator

Some have suggested that faith in God is not rational simply because it is faith in that which is not seen. However, we have not seen the wind either, but we know that it exists because we have seen the **effects** of the wind. So

is it irrational to believe in the wind? I don't think so.

It is really the same way with God. Although I cannot see God, the effects of God are very evident to me, and my faith in Him is therefore very rational. The effects of God are evident throughout His Word, which rings true to my conscience. The existence of God is evident through prophecy and through true science. It is evident throughout God's entire creation.

For example, God's existence is very evident by the perfect design of the entire human body alone. Our eyes were designed to see, our ears were designed to hear, our noses were designed to smell, our feet were designed to walk, our hands were designed to hold things, our teeth were designed to chew, and our taste buds were designed to taste. I could go on and on about so many things that God has perfectly designed throughout His creation.

Do you think that it is by chance that our taste buds ended up in our mouth rather than on our feet or some other inconvenient place on our body? And do you think that it is by chance that our eyes ended up on our face rather than some inconvenient place on our body? Obviously, everything does not fall into the right place by chance, but there had to be a creative mind behind it all. God has designed everything in creation perfectly, and His existence is evident through His creation. This is why the Bible itself says, "*Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are **without excuse***" (Romans 1:20). Man can try to excuse and delude himself all he wants, but no one can be an honest atheist.

Creation's obvious witness to its Creator can also be found in DNA, as Dave Hunt explained in his April 2004 newsletter:

Creation's most powerful witness to its Creator is found in DNA. Digitally organized instructions for building and operating trillions of cells as one body are inscribed upon DNA in

encoded language that only certain protein molecules can decode. Everything written has an author! And the author of this amazing pool of intricate information could only be an infinite Intelligence, the One who created and sustains all by 'the word of his power' (Hebrews 1:3). The rebellion of Satan and man brought destruction to the entire order in the universe. The ongoing result has been natural disasters and a growing pool of disease and deformities among men and animals: 'the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together...' (Romans 8:21, 22). Even some cells no longer follow the instructions encoded in the DNA, resulting in cancer. In spite of overwhelming and indisputable evidence bombarding him daily, man refuses to obey his Creator. He is thus a spiritual cancer on the earth, doing 'that which [is] right in his own eyes' (Judges 17:6). (Dave Hunt, from his newsletter titled *God Is Love*)

Aside from all of this, God has also written His moral law in everyone's conscience (See Romans 2:14-16). It is true that God sometimes expects us to believe things which are beyond our full comprehension, but true faith in God is still based on evidence and logic. In Dave Hunt's book titled *Seeking and Finding God* (which is part of what led my youngest brother to Christ) Dave explained it this way:

Rather than an irrational leap, [faith] is a rational step that follows the evidence and logic as far as reason is able, then takes another step beyond reason - but **always and only in the direction that evidence and reason have pointed.** (Dave Hunt, *Seeking and Finding God*, page 25)

One of the things that we need to understand is that faith in God does not mean to

merely believe in His existence. As I have shown, the existence of God should be rather obvious to everyone. True faith in God means to **believe what He says**: “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness*” (Romans 4:5). There are plenty of people in the world who believe in God, but if more of them believed what He said, then there would not be so many misrepresentations of Him today.

Blind Faith vs. Faith In God

Although even some Christians claim that faith in God is not rational, I find it to be the only rational choice, and that is why I was led to the Lord in the first place. If that is not why you were led to the Lord, then perhaps it is time to examine your “faith.” True faith in God must be based on **truth**, not some irrational leap into the dark. Although atheists often accuse Christians of having blind faith, the truth is that it takes much more blind faith to believe that anything could be designed without a designer.

Is it more rational to believe the evidence

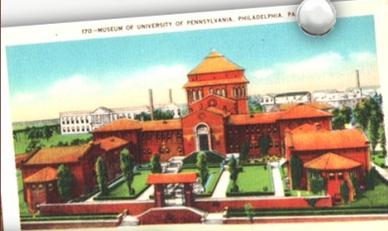
(which I have clearly shown here), or is it more rational to blindly accept the idea that all of the design throughout God's creation could come about without a designer? I will leave that up to everyone's God-given conscience and their convictions before the Lord....



Sing A New Song

Words by Eliza Edmunds Hewitt
 Music by André Grétry, William J. Kirkpatrick

“My heart is leaning on the Word,
 The living Word of God.”



287 My Faith Has Found a Resting Place
While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

Lidie H. Edmunds, 1891
 LANDAS C.M. Ref.
 Norse melody
 Arr. by William J. Kirkpatrick, 1891

1. My faith has found a rest - ing place, Not in de - vice nor creed;
 2. E - nough for me that Je - sus saves, This ends my fear and doubt;
 3. My heart is lean - ing on the Word, The writ - ten Word of God,
 4. My great Phy - si - cian heals the sick, The lost He came to save;

I trust the Ev - er - ly - ing One, His wounds for me shall plead,
 A sin - ful soul I come to Him, He'll nev - er cast me out.
 Sal - va - tion by my Sav - ior's name, Sal - va - tion through His blood,
 For me His pre - cious blood He shed, For me His life He gave.

Refrain
 I need no oth - er ar - gu - ment, I need no oth - er plea,
 It is e - nough that Je - sus died, And that He died for me.

288 Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound
God is able to make all grace abound toward you... II Cor. 9:8

John Newton, 1779
 St. 4, source unknown
 AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 Traditional American melody
 Arr. by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,

THE GOSPEL

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place
 By Maggie Moller

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (Galatians 3:26-27)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)

“In Him [Jesus Christ] and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” (Ephesians 3:12)

When Nathan announced that the newsletter topic for the month of October was going to be “faith,” I knew right away that I wanted to write about “My Faith Has Found a Resting

Place,” because it seemed to be the perfect hymn for the topic of faith. The title alone possesses the powerful message that by faith in Christ we have assurance of an eternal resting place no matter what trials we may face in this life. This is great news that should excite us! The things the world places its faith in (money, people, etc.) give them no place of rest and actually lead to more and more unrest, but Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” was penned by Eliza Edmunds Hewitt, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 28, 1851. After graduating high school, she began teaching, but her teaching career was sadly cut short when she was diagnosed with a serious spinal problem. She partially recovered but remained an invalid most of her life. Her disability prevented her from teaching, so she turned to hymn writing. The exact time in her life that she penned the words for “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” is not

known. Although she was in poor health, she served as a Sunday school superintendent for many years. Eliza lived in Philadelphia her entire life and passed away on April 24, 1920. Although she suffered much in her life and found little rest in her day-to-day trials, Eliza understood that in Christ her faith did have a secure, eternal resting place.

The music that became the tune for “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” was originally written by a man named André Ernest Modeste Grétry. André was a composer who was born in Belgium, but at some point in his life, he moved to France. He is remembered primarily for his opera compositions, and the music for “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place” is based on one of his compositions. The hymnist William Kirkpatrick, who wrote music for over a hundred hymns, including “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” and “Redeemed,” adapted André’s music into the tune we now associate with Eliza’s lyrics.



*“Trust in the LORD,
and do good; dwell in
the land and befriend
faithfulness.”
(Psalm 37:3)*



*“Let EVERYTHING that has BREATH praise
the LORD.” (Psalm 150:6)*

Praise the Lord
By Beth Moller

Pondering Biblical Faith

By Betty Harstad

“To present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight, if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and not be moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven whereof I Paul am made a minister.”
(Colossians 1:22b-23 KJV)

It is a good practice to look up word meanings from Scripture in a couple different dictionaries. Few words are deemed as important in Scripture as the word “Faith.” There are various aspects to the meaning of faith according to different dictionaries. We often hear the phrase “people of faith” in which it appears that a sincere belief in anyone or anything is enough to bind people together to work for a common good.

The first meaning for faith in Webster's New World Dictionary is:

1. An unquestioning belief.

The first definition in the 1828 Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language is similar but with more thought:

1. The assent of the mind to the truth of what is declared by another, resting on his authority and veracity, without other evidence; the judgment that what another states or testifies is the truth. I have strong faith or no faith in the testimony of a witness, or in what a historian narrates.

This simple explanation of faith often appears to be enough for the world to trust and follow a leader, raise money for charity, vote for the most convincing candidate, or have faith that a new political system will solve social problems in a clever way. Placing this unquestioning faith in man is unwise; how much

more so is practicing this sort of faith where our soul and eternal life are concerned! What is the Biblical meaning of faith? First, let's look at the 1828 Webster's Dictionary entry for Biblical faith:

4. Evangelical, justifying, or saving faith, is the assent of the mind to the truth of divine revelation, on the authority of God's testimony, accompanied with a cordial assent of the will or approbation of the heart; an entire confidence or trust in God's character and declarations, and in the character and doctrines of Christ, with an unre-served surrender of the will to his guidance, and dependence on his merits for salvation. In other words, that firm belief of God's testimony, and of the truth of the gospel, which influences the will, and leads to an entire reliance on Christ for salvation.

Being justified by faith. Romans 5.

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11.

For we walk by faith and not by sight. II Corinthians 5.

With the heart man believeth to righteousness. Romans 10.

The faith of the gospel is that emotion of the mind, which is called trust or confidence, exercised towards the moral character of God, and particularly of the Savior.

This meaty explanation of Biblical faith indicates that God has ways to reveal Himself to us so that we may have a sure faith in Him – even though we cannot comprehend the things that are too high for us to understand. Enough evidence is around us: *“The heavens declare the glory of God...For the invisible things of him [God] from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they [mankind] are without excuse”* (Psalm 19:1, Romans 1:20 KJV). As Paul stated in Colossians 1:22b-23, Biblical

faith needs to be grounded and settled. On this side of the Cross, we have the infallible proofs of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Also, unlike the Old Testament people who did not have the completed Bible, Christians today have the whole Bible and can discover for themselves the many prophecies that have already been fulfilled. Yet even Adam and Eve lived long enough to pass down what God revealed to them about the beginnings of both earth and mankind and even glimpses of the coming Messiah.

The men and women of faith listed in Hebrews Chapter 11 could not see the end from the beginning, yet each fulfilled a purpose laid out for them by God. They had already chosen to believe God through the evidence that could be gleaned in the heavens, in His Word, and by their own conscience. They were made confident that they could and should bend to His will as a part of God's purpose and plan of

eternal salvation, much of which was yet incomprehensible to them. Just as for many of us, the daily lives of most probably seemed rather ordinary with work and family. However, they were sometimes clouded by sorrows that tested their faith. For others the word they received by faith was "wait"...for a wife, a child, or for war to cease. They learned to wait in faith and in prayer even while busy with daily duties, as only God knew the right and perfect timing for each step of the way.

We who believe and trust God desire to know Him through His inspired Word. The better we know Him the more we desire to respond to His will in complete faith rather than go our own way. *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord"* (2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV).



*"The PATH of the
righteous is like the
first gleam of
DAWN, shining ever
brighter till the full
light of DAY."
(Proverbs 4:18)*

The Path of the Righteous
By Beth Moller

Complaining in the Wilderness

By Jani Lynn Warner

Oftentimes we don't realize how serious complaining truly is. Complaining about the Lord's direction and provision amounts to accusing Him of being faithless to us. We see this illustrated during the Exodus with God's holy wrath coming against those who spoke against the Lord.

We read in Numbers 21:6-9 that *"the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. So the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, because we have spoken against the Lord and you; intercede with the Lord, that He may remove the serpents from us.' And Moses interceded for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live.' And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived."*

What did the people say against God for Him to send the judgment of fiery serpents in their midst? In Numbers 14:22, the Lord said that although they had seen His Glory and His signs in Egypt and the wilderness, they had put Him to the test ten times and had not listened to His voice. Consequently, the generation that spurned Him would not see the Promised Land. (See Exodus 5:21, 14:11, 15:24, 16:2, 17:2-3, 32:1, and Numbers 11:1-4, 12:1, 14:2, 16:11, 17:5 for what these complaints against God were). Caleb, however, had a different spirit, following God fully, and he was allowed to enter the Promised Land.

Often we sin and show a lack of Faith when we encounter adversity, just as Israel did during the Exodus. We read in Numbers 11:1a, "Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard *it*, His anger was kindled...." We know they complained about

lack of water (Exodus 15:24, 17:2-3), lack of food and variety (Exodus 16:3), fear of enemies and dying by the sword (Numbers 14:3), and lack of leadership (Exodus 32:1). Yet God had provided water, food, protection, and leadership.

We may not know the seriousness of what we say sometimes, especially in adversity. Jesus said, *"Hear and understand. It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man"* (Matthew 15:10b-11). James describes our tongue as *"a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell...no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison"* (James 3:6&8). Paul says both Jews and Greeks, all under sin, have *"the poison of asps under their lips, whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness...there is no fear of God before their eyes"* (Romans 3:13b-14&18). Psalm 140:3 states: *"They sharpen their tongue as a serpent; poison of a viper is under their lips."*

How was Caleb different? Caleb followed God by telling the truth about the Promised Land that God had shown him. He did not slander God by complaining. Caleb was obedient and faithful, entering adversity to overcome the giants of the land with God's help, in order to enter into the promises of God. The other spies (besides Joshua) used speech to deceptively justify and cover their cowardice and disobedience by refusing to battle the giants. They did not believe God, and they slandered Him through their disobedience and were not allowed to enter the Promised Land because of their faithlessness.

I pray that we who are bitten by the fiery serpents of adversity in our own lives would look to Jesus and follow Him fully with a different spirit, the Holy Spirit, who will guard our hearts and minds in Christ through the tribulations and adversities that are in the world. I pray that we will soon see the Coming of the Lord, who will gather us to our true home in Heaven.



*"In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one."
(Ephesians 6:16)*

*"You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your gentleness made me great."
(2 Samuel 22:36)*

**November Newsletter Theme—Truth
Submission Deadline: November 4
Publish Date: November 11**

Theme: Truth, Jesus as the Truth, "All His works are done in truth," "God of Truth," importance of truth, deception, lies, "full of Grace and Truth," The Spirit of Truth, "Worship Him in spirit and in truth," Pilot said, "What is truth?" "...hold truth in righteousness," "...who changed the truth of God into a lie," loins girt about with truth, "Truly, truly, I say to you," etc...