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Faith, once again

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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). I've questioned a dozen times how I can be absolutely sure of things that I only hope for and how I can be completely convinced of things I have never seen. There isn't an easy answer other than I AM absolutely sure of the hope of good coming from bad situations and I AM absolutely convinced that there is a mighty and loving God seated in the Heavenly Realm working in and around our lives. I have no mathematical formula that proves this. I have no scientific proof that either is correct or right, but I have no doubt whatsoever. When there is proof there is no need for faith. Living a life in which everything is certain is meaningless."

Faith, once again

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). I've questioned a dozen times how I can be absolutely sure of things that I only hope for and how I can be completely convinced of things I have never seen. There isn't an easy answer other than I AM absolutely sure of the hope of good coming from bad situations and I AM absolutely convinced that there is a mighty and loving God seated in the Heavenly Realm working in and around our lives. I have no mathematical formula that proves this. I have no scientific proof that either is correct or right, but I have no doubt whatsoever. When there is proof there is no need for faith. Living a life in which everything is certain is meaningless.

If we could prove that God existed, there would be no room for faith. Everyone would be walking around with complacent mindsets because there is nothing to have faith in. They would know that God exists, so they would not need to pursue any truth to figure that out. However, faith allows us the opportunity to seek after God and learn to love Him with everything we have. Faith provides us the freedom to live our lives for something bigger and better than anything this world can offer. You can't do that if you already know something.

For example, when a scientist doesn't know the answer to a complicated equation, he seeks out a way to find the answer. He researches and talks to colleagues. He never stops pursuing the answer to his question. However, once he does figure out the answer, the pursuing stops. He no longer needs to talk to people or seek out help. The same thing applies when it comes to God. If people knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that He existed, then there would be no need to pursue Him. We wouldn't need to learn about Him or talk about Him with others. There would be no reason to do so, because everyone would know for sure. There would be no purpose to our lives anymore.

I remember a story I heard a few years back that describes faith in our lives. Picture this: you are standing next to a wheel barrel on top of a huge hill. Ahead of you, you can see this very narrow path with all sorts of twists and turns along the way. The controller of the wheel barrel is the one who created the path in front of you, so he knows every twist, turn and pothole. He offers you a ride but says that you have to put both hands and feet inside the wheel barrel and then trust him to get you to the other side safely. Some people flatly refuse. Why in the world would you get into that wheel barrel with someone else in control of what happens to you? Then, there are the people who are nervous and scared but somehow manage to get a foot in. However, they won't put the other foot in. They don't want to give up that little bit of control they have over themselves and the wheel barrel. Lastly, there are the people who, despite the fear and the anxiety, step in completely. They let the one who created the road guide them along it. The fear slowly starts to fade away because they have faith in the one who is pushing them along and they slowly start to see that he will keep his promise to guide them along this narrow path safely. Finally, they have the freedom to do what they need to do along that path, trusting that the controller is behind them.

When I step out of my front door every day, I see a world in desperate need of faith. I see a lot of people who refuse to get into the wheel barrel at all, and I see a lot of people who still have one foot outside of it. I have my moments when I want to stick my foot out of the wheel barrel because I cannot see what God is doing or how He could possibly get me through certain things. But then I remember what He has already done in my life and in the life of the people around me; that usually leads me to resist trying to control things. When I remember the freedom to do God's work and take care of the responsibilities I have by trusting that He is with me and guiding me, it makes situations a lot less difficult. He created the path I am on and knows everything what will come my way, so why would I not trust Him to lead me through it? I don't know what is coming or what this life will bring me, so I have no desire to let anyone other than God guide me through it.

I know God deeply loves every person on this planet. So I hope that I will get the opportunity to share what it means to have faith with others and use words when necessary. My faith allows me to help people when I am exhausted because God sees what I need. My faith allows me to put others above myself because He will provide the healing to my own wounds. I don't have to put on a fake smile to show that I am a good Christian or that God exists. Having faith that God is working allows me to be open, honest and real with people. I am a human being who falls short of the glory of God just like everyone else. Faith gives me that confidence to keep going, despite my shortcomings, so that others will see what God has done in my life and then come to know that He can do the same for them.

Through faith, I see each day as another opportunity to love and serve the very people that my God loves so dearly. And I am able to do whatever comes my way because of my faith in His promises to me.

Stephanie Klenk