

From Pastor's Desk...

FAITH: TRUST IN GOD BEYOND REASON

Our faith is an objective faith in the sense that we believe in who God is and what he did. We make a difference in life and have an impact on generations when, we rely on God the creator, sustainer and redeemer. Hebrews Ch.11 deals with heroes of faith in pre-Christian era as examples and we find the words, "by faith." 21 times in the chapter.

1. Abel offered an excellent sacrifice unto God. He offered it "by Faith." He was commended as a righteous man and didn't make a compromise for a long life instead, stood for truth to have an eternal life. It is certain to know that Cain's sacrifice was a mere formality and, it was rejected. The same danger is found among the worshippers who make religious ceremonies everywhere assuming that God is pleased in their act of worship.
2. Enoch walked with God by faith. He was commended as one who pleased God. There is a difference between walking and merely living. Family life was not a hindrance for him but lived 365 years in communion with God. He was taken to the presence of God without experiencing death. Oh' what a reward for the faithful life!
3. Noah built an ark to save his family by faith. He was known as a preacher of "righteousness" (2Pet. 2:5). He testified to the vitality of his faith and warned his contemporaries of coming judgement. We also need to recognize the divine assignment in life for our family and others.
4. Abraham began a pilgrimage with God to a better world of God's making by faith. He lived in tents, looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. He was called God's friend. Obedience to the call of God will change the course of our life too.

Billy Graham recollected an incident to affirm his faith as being sure of what he hopes for and certain of what he doesn't see, during a luncheon in his special honor about Albert Einstein, who was honored as the man of the Century by Time Magazine failed to find the ticket purchased for his journey in a train. The conductor said, "Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are, you don't need a ticket." He replied, "I know who I am but what I don't know is where I am going?" And Billy Graham continued, "I not only know who I am. I also know where I am going."

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

Rev. K. P. Mathew

(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

Boat of Faith "All on Board.....!"

Julia Robin David

"Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
Hebrews 11:1

Faith is a very profound topic for Christians like us in the making to share about. When there is a highly qualified writing on the left-hand side from our dear Pastor, this side would surely not look that appealing. But pray that The Lord almighty gives the grace to share a few lines along with dear pastor on this bulletin of March regarding faith.

Faith is a simple word but still it is so intense for us Christ followers it's more than a mere word. My husband and I always laugh about it, when there is no storm in our lives, our faith is sailing smoothly like a calm boat in the sea. But Man..... when the tides are high and a storm hits us, our smooth sailing faith is not the same anymore. We forget that the word "faith" ever existed in our Christ focused life. Pretty much the storm puts the whole phrase CHRIST out of our minds and hearts.

Next thing we know, we are merely leaning on our very own understanding, running around like we have a tail on fire. And some God sent good friend show up, sipping over some green tea and reminding us the covenant we have with Christ. It surely reminds us, that we should stick with green tea, too! Kidding; At that moment you laugh at the friends face and wonder what covenant are they talking about and reply- "don't you see the storm is above our head my friend?" And all you want to do is over look what others say.

Sooner or later, the very same word grows into our heart, and reminds us that we do have a covenant with Christ and that is about having faith even when it seems like there is no chance of this storm will stop. It means that we might be standing in a flood which will capsize our life, still, have faith that God has your back. Though satan will do his best, when our super hero Lord shows up, satan stops and so does the storm. Because, devil has no power at that moment when we plead unto the Lord almighty by Faith.

These aren't mere words; anyone in a storm today? As you are reading this, plead with God, and tell him how urgent the request is. Have Faith in Abba Father who will take you to the heights you never knew existed. Have our storms all stopped? No! But, we take it one day at a time and be rest assured that the Captain of the boat is our 'Lord Jesus' and no matter what, we will see a beautiful ending. No matter how strong satan things his schemes may be. So, Bon Voyage to all my fellow Christian sailors as we hold on to our captain Jesus Christ in the Boat of Faith. God bless us all.