From Pastor's Desk ...

Faith Never Fails

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Heb 11:1).

Faith is the confidence in the ability of the object of our faith. Faith is the cable that connects us with God who is *El-Shaddai* - an all-powerful and all-sufficient God.

Faith activates us to take the first step of action as in the event of the fall of Jericho. It helps us to move even before God moves on behalf of us. God of action always demands us to take the first step so that He can take care of the rest.

The heroes of faith were people just like us. The author of the book of Hebrews lists at least eighteen men of heroes of faith from Abel to Samuel. Faith in God changed them from ordinary to extraordinary. Faith never fails. Faith cannot stay with doubt.

Doubt sees obstacles, Faith sees the way!

Doubt sees the darkest night, Faith sees the day!

Doubt dreads to take a step, Faith soars on high!

Doubt questions, "Who believes?" Faith answers, "I."

Faith is to believe what we do not see and the reward of faith is to see what believe. God bless you.

Rev. K. M. Varughese

(Senior Pastor)

Risk, Vulnerability, and Persistence

The theme "bring your faith into focus" is relevant in many areas of Christian life, especially in missions and evangelism. If our faith is lacking or even weak, mission work will either never happen or the work will suffer from being effective. So how might we strengthen our faith and even have "great faith" in missions?

Our trust and confidence in God often wanes: (1) when we have had negatives experiences (being ridiculed for the Christian faith, failing to represent Christ well, etc.), or (2) when issues we have been praying for do not materialize as we expected (friends, family, or neighbors who have still not come to the Christian faith, etc.).

Faith often decreases when we feel like we are losing control in a situation. In such situations, the stress and emphasis is upon us humans and how we are controlling a situation. Great faith, in contrast, involves risk, being vulnerable, and having persistence. So in our actions of faith (prayer, giving, evangelizing, etc.), it is best to acknowledge that God is in control. God never gives up and ultimately He is the one who changes people's hearts. Thankfully, the word of God and the testimonies of many in our churches, throughout the ages, over and over again, assure us that God is most able in handling our fragile and difficult situations with the greatest of

Bro. Joshua Muthalali (Evangelism Director)

Bring Your Faith Into Focus Sis. Preeti Regi

"Move mountains by faith", that is what the Bible teaches us.

How is this even remotely possible? Our mountain is too big for us - lost a job, bills to pay, and disappointing results from the Doctors.

We like to glorify the "mountain" not knowing that if it takes faith to move it, we will have to bring our focus back from the "mountain" to "faith."

Jesus said all it takes is faith as small as a mustard seed to move such mountains. The power of this gift from God is in the nature of the omnipotent God who bestows faith of His own.

Even the littlest trust and faith can move big things if we realize it comes from God.

Christ has taken all of our so called "mountains" to the cross,

and by His stripes we have been healed and received His peace.

If faith as put in Heb 11:1 is putting our confidence, hope and assurance in what we do not see, then it requires of us to (1) trust in God and not our circumstances, (2) put action into faith, and (3) wait patiently for God's appointed time.

In Mathew 14:30-31 we see Peter walking on the water towards Jesus (our Christian journey).

But when he saw the wind (the "mountain"), he was afraid (doubt/fear) and, beginning to sink (lost faith), immediately Jesus reached out His hand, and caught him, and said unto him these very words (that maybe us and we need to hear that again),

"You of little faith," He said, "why did you doubt?"



"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof."

Khalil Gibran

"A living faith will last in the midst of the blackest storm."

Mahatma Gandhi

"Faith activates God – Fear activates the Enemy."

Joel Osteen

"Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light."

Helen Keller

"Faith is like Wi-Fi! It's invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need."

Anonymous

"Always have faith in me. Because there are some questions that even Google CAN'T answer!"

GOD