

Belief On The Rocks

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.” This is the answer to the question the Philippian jailer asked Paul and his friends after they had miraculously escaped from prison and he wanted to become a Christian.

“Understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed.” Understanding is a key to faith, but not the key. Believing in God, and all the things he makes possible, sometimes requires suspending rationality. For most Christians, we believe in the depravity of man, which makes us limited in understanding, and tempts us to go off on endless wild goose chases for fulfillment.

Believing in the faith arena is trusting. Trusting in a god who is like no other God. Trusting in a God who is unlimited in his power, unequalled in his love, and eternal in his plans.

A priest, an evangelist, and a minister were in a row boat in the middle of a pond fishing. None of them had caught anything all morning.

Then the evangelist stands up and says he needs to go to shore, so he climbs out of the boat and walks on the water to shore. He comes back ten minutes later the same way.

Then the minister decides he needs to go too, so he climbs out of the boat and walks on the water to shore. He, too, comes back the same way ten minutes later.

The priest looks at both of them and decides that his faith is just as strong as his fishing buddies and that he can walk on water, too. He stands up and excuses himself. As he steps out, he makes a big splash down into the water.

The evangelist looks at the minister and says, "I suppose we should have told him where the rocks were."

When we really think about it, faith is about knowing where the rocks are, and telling others so they won't go splash. It is about knowing the places God wants us to go, and walking with him just as Peter walked with Jesus on the water of the Sea of Galilee.

Believing in a God who knows where the rocks are and shows us how to walk in safety is really the bedrock of faith. People who don't know God not only don't know they can't walk on water, they don't even know where the water is.

So, what do you believe in really? Where are your rocks? Do you believe in a Santa Clause type of God who watches and rewards, who has a white beard and a belly that shakes when he laughs like a bowl full of jelly?

Do you believe in a God who is like a puppet that we control, there to do our bidding, and who has no power except what we give him?

Do you believe in a God of your own creation? One who can do a few things, but is relegated to the background until you get finished with the things you want to do?

God is none of those things. They are earthly rocks of our own making, and temporary at best. God is an eternal spirit who not only knows everything, he can do anything. He is not under our power or a result of who or what we think he might be. In fact, he majors in accomplishing the impossible.

“If you have faith,” Jesus says, “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 7:20

That’s a pretty big rock, and what we do with it speaks volumes. There are many things we can do, but we reach a limit, for we can only do what is humanly possible. But God majors in doing what many think cannot be done. And the wonderful thing is that, when we believe, we are a part of that marvelous journey.

The impossible is walking on the water not just knowing where the rocks are, it is walking on water where there are no earthly rocks beneath the surface to prop us up. It is trusting in Jesus, the Son of God come to the world to save us, to make it possible for us to walk the way he walks, and talk the way he talks.

You see, the rock is Jesus himself. Peter the Apostle writes “For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." ~ I Peter 2:6

So belief on the rocks is not walking on rocks in a pond. It is trusting in the one true rock, Jesus, who knows where all the stumbling blocks are.

Rock on, dear reader, as you believe in God who is far and above all others.