

Faith Ventures

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” ~ Hebrews 11:11

Faith is the bedrock of the Christian Church. We have faith in Jesus Christ whom we do not see to face life which we have yet seen and yield results we may never see. It's about who God is and what God can do.

The reason many do not have a growing and vital faith is that they are still trying to accomplish things ourselves rather than trusting God to do them. When we are able to step back and watch God part the Red Seas of life, we will see miracles before our very eyes.

We must live so that when we are gone, people will not have to search for things to say about us at our funerals. In the meantime, we get to see the marvelous things God does.

A young pastor moved to a new church and during his first week was called upon to have a funeral. The day arrived for the service and the church was full. The time came in the service for eulogy.

Since the new and young pastor did not know the individual, he asked if someone would like to say some good words about the deceased. He waited and no one came. He waited until the sweat was running down the back of his neck.

Finally, when the silence was almost unbearable, an old farmer in the back row lifted himself up to full stature and said with a voice of authority, "His brother was worse."

For the kind faith which produces results, we in today's world must embrace a faith empowered by the Holy Spirit. Faith can be a process, but God wants powerful moments along the way. The coming to life of faith requires an awakening of the individual, an out pouring of God's power, and a journey which is full of adventure.

“We need a quickening of faith; faith in the power of the God of Pentecost to convict and convert three thousand in a day. Faith, not in a process of culture by

which we hope to train children into a state of salvation, but faith in the mighty God who can quicken a dead soul into life in a moment; faith in moral and spiritual revolution rather than evolution.” ~ **A. C. Dixon**

Maybe if we look at faith by comparing it to some of the biggest things God has created, we will find the faith which brings all of life into focus. Perhaps the universe, the human body with all of its complicated systems, or the sun which rises each and every single day with constancy and regularity as a supreme gift of God.

“I believe in Christianity, writes C.S. Lewis, “ as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

As the sun rises, it heats the ground. Plants germinate. Seeds and trees grow. People wake up and are warmed in its glow. It makes a planet warm and growing rather than a dark and cold planet. All of life on earth, it seems, comes from the sun and the results it calls forth.

God sends the Son, Jesus, into the world for much the same reason. He warms hearts, works miracles, and all things come together in Him. He calls us to love one another, to become a part of the system which brings love and goodness to the world. And the many adventures become part of a chain which is filled with beauty and completeness.

*Faith is the silver thread upon which the pearls of the graces are to be hung. Break that, and you have broken the string — the pearls lie scattered on the ground.” ~ **Charles H. Spurgeon***

If we can see faith ventures as pearls to be strung on that beautiful thread called faith, we will find rather than going from one to another, they all come together to form the most beautiful heavenly jewelry which can be made. God does it, just as he longs to do more and more in all of us.

Let us be people who have been transformed by our contact with Jesus. People who were once blind, but now we see. Travelers who didn't get it, but now we do. Sinners who were once in darkness, but now walk in the light.

This kind of faith, as we arise from an encounter with the living Lord Jesus, is the kind which makes new disciples and brings daily results.

Jesus commands us to go, now that he has touched our hearts. And go we must, and follow him to heights which were never before possible.

Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. Mark 10:52