

# Superman Faith

Many of us would like to be Superman in our faith. We would like to be able to leap tall buildings at a single bound. We wouldn't mind being faster than a speeding bullet or more powerful than a locomotive. Would like to, but we can't. We are not from another planet. We do not have superhuman powers. Or do we?

There are many things about this mythical superhero which we have in common as Christians. God is more powerful than anything or anyone. He knows everything, past present and future. And God can do anything. He send Jesus out of heaven to save us and give us "power" that no one else on earth can have. So maybe there's something to this Superman Faith thing.

What is a hero? Well, a hero is someone people can look up to. Sometimes he saves people. And he inspires us to be more than we ever thought we could be.

Michael Stravinski, one of the writers for a recent Superman tv series, describes Superman this way: "For a lot of people, Superman is and has always been America's hero. He stands for what we believe is the best within us: limitless strength tempered by compassion, that can bear adversity and emerge stronger on the other side. He stands for what we all feel we would like to be able to stand for, when standing is hardest."

The real Jesus has limitless strength tempered by compassion. He could have destroyed the forces who had placed him on the cross, could have called down ten thousand angels, but chose to do what he had come here for. He chose to give his life so that we might live.

That's what we can do for others. We can live for others, give with vision far beyond what the world can conceive. He stands strong when evil is all around and all seems lost- a force which our world sorely needs.

Sometimes we try to play it safe as Christians. Preachers don't want to offend, so they water down their sermons. Laity don't want to offend neighbors by asking about faith, or inviting them to church, so they remain in darkness and out of fellowship with the living God.

As Muhammed Ali, the "greatest" boxer once said, "Superman don't need no seat belt!" Neither do we, if we trust that God is in charge, and that nothing is impossible with God, then there is no way we can fail.

We must develop courage tempered with humility. We must be the welcome mat to heaven rather than the doormat of hell. We must be strong at exactly the moment we

need to be strong, and step aside for a speeding missile of evil at the exact right moment.

Superman faith comes together when we know exactly where we came from, and trust God to take us exactly where he wants us to be. Superman faith happens when we realize that the true strength remains with God. He has it all, and gives it to us at the exact right time.

The scriptures trumpet these words of power. “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.” ~Psalm 28:7-8 “I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Philippians” 4:13

Sometimes we do not know superman faith until we get sick. Until we are in the hospital for a critical illness that we neither understand or have control of.

“I thought I was Superman”, writes the famous running back Adrian Peterson, “until I experienced that life-changing anaphylactic shock. I was eating lunch and gobbled down a couple of bowls of gumbo. Then, 15 minutes later, I'm in my dorm room resting up. My eyes started itching and my throat was swelling up. I could barely breathe.”

Ironically, the time we need and find Superman faith is precisely when we realize we are not Superman, and we have neither the power or wisdom in ourselves to handle the situation in front of us.

It takes wisdom for superman faith. We have to know when to use that power and when not to.

Christopher Reeve, one of the great movie Superman, says, “What makes Superman a hero is not that he has power, but that he has the wisdom and the maturity to use the power wisely. From an acting point of view, that's how I approached the part.”

Finally, know your limits. Krypton was Superman's weakness. Foolhardy sin is ours.

“Right before I jumped out of a plane,” writes Harry Shum, Jr., “I knew what Superman felt like.

Don't run in front of a car to prove a point. Don't tempt fate. Know that in his way, in his wisdom, and at the time that does the most good for everyone concerned, God will show us Superman faith..