**Faith - Ponderings**

**There is sometimes a tendency to think of the spiritual life as primarily introspective, divorced from the concerns of everyday life and society. Faith that does not translate into actions is no faith at all. *(The Dalai Lama)***

**Affirmation: “God, help me to keep my faith directed to You.  I thirst for the comfort of complete trust in Your will. I accept the truth--right now-that everything is all right.  Thank You, God.” *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest)***

**I am prejudiced in favor of him who, without imprudence, can ask boldly. He has faith in humanity, and faith in himself. No one who is not accustomed to give grandly can ask nobly and with boldness. *(Johann Kaspar Lavater, Swiss theologian)***

**It is not our faith in eternal life that gives us a knowledge of Christ but our faith in Christ that gives us a knowledge of eternal life. *(Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons, p. 60)***

**The great modern revival of divine healing is due to the application of the same law that Jesus used. He demanded faith on the part of those whom He healed, and with that faith as the point of mental and spiritual contact He released the latent energy in the atomic structure of His patients and they were restored to life and health. *(Charles Fillmore)***

**When you come to the edge of all the light you know, and are about to step off into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing one of two things will happen: There will be something solid to stand on or you will be taught how to fly. *(Barbara J. Winter)***

**Faith is the great energy. As long as you have faith, you’re willing to try to take another chance. God wants you to amble toward the right spot on the horizon. The idea is that you’re willing to get up and keep moving toward that light. *(Billy Corgan, rock musician and songwriter)***

**Some people, alas, believe that kind of tortured logic. And while we may scorn, even see it as sacrilegious, still is it not better to believe something, rather than be completely faith-dead? At least there’s a starting point, a foundation system, however feeble, of faith upon which to build better belief. There are two ways to slide through life: believe everything, believe nothing. Of the two extremes, the latter could be the more dangerous and deadly. *(LectionAid)***

**If you can’t have faith in what is held up to you for faith, you must find things to believe in yourself, for a life without faith in something is too narrow a space to live. *(George E. Woodberry)***

**You don’t gain faith, you discover it and you direct it.  The issue is not how much faith you have, but where your faith is invested. Faith can be invested in sickness or invested in health. Faith is “knowing.” The question is, what are you “knowing”? *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 232, 237)***

**Faith is not knowledge of what the mystery of the universe is, but the conviction that there is a mystery, and that it is greater than us.
*(Rabbi David Wolpe, in Making Loss Matter)***

**People have problems with religious faith, not from an urge to disbelieve but from a passionate need to believe. People want to make sense out of life. To believe is as essential for a person as air and water. Believing, with its past anchors and future referents, is not an easy task nor is it one that is ever completely finished. What is important to recognize is the essential humanity of this quest for at least partial answers to life’s problems, for some light as we make our way along its all too often dark passageways. *(Eugene Kennedy, in Believing, p. 16-17)***

**Religious faith is not a storm cellar to which men and women can flee for refuge from the storms of life. It is, instead, an inner spiritual strength that enables them to face those storms with hope and serenity. Religious faith has the miraculous power to lift ordinary human beings to greatness in seasons of stress. Religious faith is to be found in the promises of God. *(Sen. Sam. J. Ervin, Jr., in Humor of a Country Lawyer)***

**Getting ahead in a difficult profession requires avid faith in yourself. That is why some people with mediocre talent, but with great inner drive, go much further than people with vastly superior talent. *(Sophia Loren)***

**This atmosphere of faith in God as the source of healing pervaded the Fillmore household from the early days of Unity. Once, Lowell had the mumps, and Rick caught them in one jaw. That day his mother found him playing barefoot in the rain. When she reprimanded him, he asked, “Don’t you believe what you say?” Of course, Myrtle Fillmore believed what she taught, and Rick suffered no ill effect. *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 156)***

**The spiritual substance out of which visible wealth comes is never depleted. Pour your living words of faith into substance, and you will be prospered though all banks in the world shut their doors. Turn the energy of your thought upon “plenty ideas,” and you will have plenty, no matter what people about you are saying. *(Myrtle Fillmore)***

**Often it’s when you step out by faith that your troubles really start. But that doesn’t mean that you discerned God’s will incorrectly in your decision to step out. *(Russ Johnston, God Can Make It Happen, p. 72)***

**You might be surprised to learn you already have all the faith you will ever need. It’s true. You don’t gain faith. You discover it and you direct it. The issue is not how much faith you have, but where your faith is invested. True faith is that deep inner knowing that the good you desire is already yours. True spiritual faith is complete trust in God’s will. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 232)***

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