

Three Dimensions of Faith

Psalms 37:1-9; Matthew 21:18-22

Suggested music: “This is my Father’s world”, “Faith of our Fathers”

1. Introduction

- There are many definitions of faith: belief, trust, conviction, etc.
- Although there is no tangible evidence, the results of faith are just as assured as are the results of physical laws; actually, there is evidence of the results of faith in retrospect (Hebrew 11:1-3).
- In this talk, faith most nearly means: trust
- There are three dimensions of this type of faith:
 - a) Faith in God
 - b) Faith in others
 - c) Faith in self

2. Faith in God – there is a very little today as compared to faith in technology, psychology, human-centered solutions, etc.

- The barrier occurs because God is invisible
- Even so, there is an historically proven foundation to suggest that God is someone to be trusted; God is alive, eternal, unchanging and constant.
- To overcome the barrier to this kind of faith is to realize and be convinced that God is alive, eternal, and unchanging in love and purpose.
- The results of having faith in God are that one gains tremendous power and insights and wisdom, even gains God substantially as a partner in life.
- Examples of faith in God:
 - a) Noah. Not the durability of 120 years.
 - b) Abraham. Not the intensity even to sacrifice own son.
 - c) Others: Moses, David, Esther, Deborah, Francis of Assisi, Martin L. King
- Rev. Moon reminds us that the very same God is with us today and that we are really no different from the people mentioned above.
- (Testify about the miracles of Washington Monument, Father’s life in prison.)

- Why are Moonies ridiculed and called brainwashed? (Because they dare to have durable and intense faith in God.)
 - This is the question which all the saints had to face, the question that all of us have to face: How durable and intense is our faith in God?
 - There is a danger in that this can be overdone a little by expecting God to do everything; this is a very selfish point of view. Also, one could expect God to fulfill every selfish intent of a person.
 - To overcome this danger, we must do our 100% and allow God to do the rest. Also, we should only ask for things for the sake of God and the world.
3. Faith in Others – there is very little trust for others in the world today; suspicion and defensiveness are the rule of the land.
- The barrier occurs because of fallen nature.
 - Even so, there is the original nature and image of God which is potentially in every person and which makes everyone a person to be trusted.
 - To overcome the barrier to this kind of faith is to accentuate the positive and the good in others.
 - The results of having faith in others are to gain the loyalty and commitment of others to yourself.
 - Examples of faith in others:
 - a) A parent trusts a child to do something even if the parent knows that the child has very little ability. A child will accomplish more if the parent trusts than if the parent does not trust.
 - b) God is like a parent: God trusts every generation with the hope that someone will succeed. God has no choice.
 - c) Jesus trusted the apostles and the people even after they betrayed and killed him.
 - There is a danger in that one may be naïve and foolish in trusting others.
 - To overcome this danger, we must use wisdom. If a person is not sincere or trustworthy and takes advantage of our trust, we must raise that person to make a condition of faith so that trust can be given. In any case, we must be always willing to trust on that foundation.
4. Faith in Self – there is a great lack of self-confidence in people today.

- The barrier occurs because of fallen nature; we know best our own weaknesses.
- Even so, we are someone to be trusted because we are the potential perfected child of God.
- To overcome the barrier to this kind of faith is to have confidence in oneself to overcome our self-imposed limits (the power of positive thinking).
- The results of having faith in oneself are the ability to face any situation as it arises and to achieve and gain something from every situation.
- Examples of faith in self:
 - a) “The Little Red Engine that Could” (a children story of a train engine that believed in itself to climb a great mountain). Usually people lack self-motivation and self-esteem; we impose too many limitations on ourselves and believe that we cannot change the world; we bury and defeat ourselves; belief in oneself solves half the battle.
- Moonies are reminded that we can change the world, and, therefore, we will.
- There is a danger in that this kind of faith could lead to self-pride, arrogance and overconfidence.
- To overcome this danger, we must humble and wise and remember who we are before God. We must use all talents for God and for others.

5. Conclusion

- Faith and trust usually require a long time to establish; it is sad to note how very little it takes to break it down.
- Faith must be lived; someone has to do it before others can see its value.
- ACT: testify that God is alive; be a person to be trusted and build trust within the community; go beyond oneself.
- Faith requires: energy, risk, forgiveness and understanding.
- We need a balance of all three dimensions of faith in order to succeed in life; this is a critical element of true, unconditional love.
- Although no one can tell anyone else when to have faith, still there are things to guide us in our own decision: use wisdom and reason; be humble; pray with the proper intent; act with all our might and conviction.
- The Bible and Divine Principle can both serve as guides.
- Always pray for strength to believe in God, others and self.