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PASTOR'S CORNER

Faith Comes From God

Romans 10:16-17; Romans 12:3

A man was driving his truck in the mountains rather carelessly. As he goes around a curve, he loses control of the truck and it went off the edge of the mountain. The truck careened off the side of the mountain and down the mountainside. Fortunately, the man was able to find a tree limb that was growing out of the side of the mountain. He was holding on for dear life. He was terrified because he realized he could be dead at this very moment. He looked up and down and realized he was not in a good position. He began to yell at the top of his lungs, "Is anybody up there?" There was no answer. He shouted again, again at the top of his lungs and no one answered. Worried about his predicament he paused and gathered himself. And again he yelled, "Is anybody up there?" This time someone answered. Yes, someone is up here. The man shouted, "can you help me?" "Yes, I can," came the response. The man asked a logical question even though he was in no position to bargain, "Who are you?" The voice called back, "this is God." The man shouted, "help me Lord!" The voice asked, "Do you have faith?" The man shouted back, "yes, I have faith!" The voice said, "Let go of the branch." The man looked up and then he looked down. He looked up and then he looked down. The man shouted back "Is anybody else up there?"

For many this will be a humorous joke. However, underneath this story speaks to our faith. It speaks to the kind of faith necessary to get off the variety of mountainsides we often find ourselves on. It speaks to our relationship with the Alpha and Omega of our faith. Most

people do not know or remember where faith comes from and those who do believe the faith that is being spoken of, know that faith is of the mind. The power of the will. The positive mental attitude that many of embrace to make our days go well.

All through the Gospels we have read and heard Jesus use the words "O you of little faith." Matt. 6:30, 14:31. Little faith stands for weak faith. Weak is the very opposite of strong. Strong is the opposite of weak. We all strive for a faith that is strong. The Bible tells us that Abraham was a man of faith. In fact, it tells us that Abraham had strong faith (Romans 4:17-21). This scripture tells us that Abraham believed even though the circumstances that told him he could not have a child because of his and Sarah's old age. This scripture says they believed anyway. The lyrics to the "Impossible Dream" seem appropriate here:

To dream the impossible dream
Fight the unbeatable foe
To bear with unbearable sorrow
To run where the brave dare not go
To right the unrightable wrong
And to love pure and chase from afar
To try when our arms are too weary
To reach the unreachable star.

For many in the moments of our trial, in the moments of shear desperation, we feel the words of this song clutching at our hearts. Many want faith but do not how to get it. We want to believe, but don't know where to begin. In our moments of need we often believe that faith is an impossible dream, yet the Word of God tells us it is not.

In the Kings James Version of the Bible, it says that Abraham was fully persuaded. "Fully persuaded that what God had promised He (God) could perform." It requires being persuaded. It requires that we become convinced. Faith requires that the Word of God is embraced by us. Faith is what moves God. Faith is what God pays attention to.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:10 to be strong in the Lord. We are not to attempt to try and find strength in ourselves in the moments of our trials and difficulties. The God kind of strength can only come from God. The strength that is needed to overcome. The strength that is needed to accept and surrender to God's will comes from God. So where does that God kind of faith come from? That God kind of faith comes from God (Romans 10:16-17). However, Isaiah asks the question, "Who has heard what was said to them?" The Word of God is given, but does anyone believe it? It is preached, but does anyone believe it? Where does faith come from? Paul tells us that Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Faith comes from the Word of God. Faith originates from God.

Romans 12:3 tells us God gives us a measure of faith. This faith has to be developed. It has to be made stronger. It is when we exercise this faith, nourish this faith, that this faith grows. It will not grow unless it is developed. A contractor does not build his or her home in a storm. They build it when the weather is good, when things are going well. Why don't we begin to build our faith when the times are not so trying in our lives?

God bless and remain safe,

Pastor Gool