

8.11.2018

FAITH GOD'S UNLIMITED ABILITIES

Introduction - The world we live in defines Faith as complete trust or confidence in someone or something. The Bible contains a clear definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."



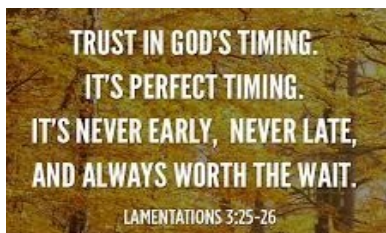
Simply put, the definition of Faith is Trusting in Something you Cannot Explicitly Prove.

The definition of faith contains two aspects: intellectual assent and trust. Intellectual assent is believing something to be true. Trust is actually relying on the fact that the something is true. That belief is NOT based in Proof. A chair is a great illustration of these aspects. Intellectual assent is recognizing that a chair is a chair and agreeing that it is designed to support a person who sits on it. Trust is actually sitting in the chair.

The environment of Faith you create determines your existence. The atmosphere around you can boost your Faith or choke it.

Faith Atmosphere is the air in any place and time. It is the feeling of good or evil that the mind receives from a place, condition and/or experience.

- A feeling of evil, doubt, disappointment, "it won't work" and "no one to help me", hinders a Faith from taking root and yielding positive results.
- A feeling of good, trust, optimism, excitement, enthusiasm, expectation and success enhance Faith and create miracles.



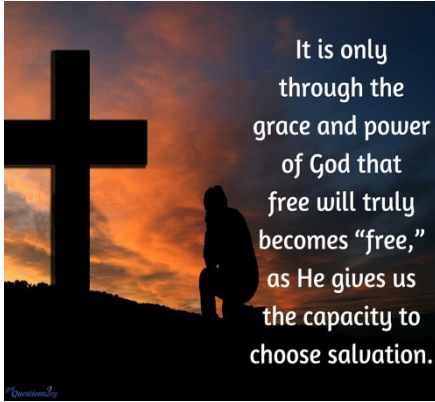
Anyone who wants to achieve something in life therefore must be concerned about the atmosphere he creates and permits around him. Atmosphere can aid or can kill Faith. Important to note: Faith is the basis for a relationship with God.

Let us listen carefully to David Eich as he takes us on Spiritual Journey and consider the Wisdom of Holy Scripture and Catechism. May God give to each one of us the necessary means to complete His Gift of our Unique & Holy Mission.

"Faith is believing when common sense tells you not to."

George Seaton, American screen writer, Miracle on 34th Street

Mr. Seaton should know. His 1947 film about a little girl who didn't believe in Santa Claus won him an Academy Award for Best Writing Adapted Screenplay. And though the story was completely fiction, his message about faith overcoming doubt is real.



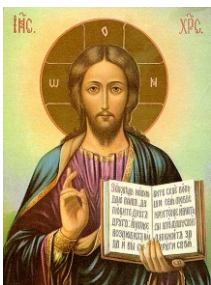
Other Hollywood productions have captured this same theme. These stories were not fiction. Rudy, an undersized football player who played for Notre Dame; Cinderella Man, the story of James Braddock who became the heavyweight champion of the world; Remember the Titans, about a high school football team that overcame racial tension to win the state championship; Invincible, the story of bartender, Vince Papale, who played for the Philadelphia Eagles; The Rookie, a high school baseball coach's journey to the major leagues long after his career-ending injury; Moneyball, Billy Beane's story about a

baseball club's General Manager who never lost faith in his team; and Miracle on Ice, the inspirational epic about the U.S. hockey team that won the gold medal at the 1980 Olympics.

In scripture there are numerous stories where faith overcame doubt. Abraham gave up everything, trusting in the Lord to go to a strange land; Noah built an ark after he received a command from God; Gideon went to war against an army that he had no earthly chance to defeat; David slew the giant, Goliath; and Moses led God's people out of Egypt defying Pharaoh and his army.

Said another way, common sense demands that we "play it safe." But faith demands that we begin to move beyond our comfort zone.

During our journey on this planet we will encounter multiple opportunities to overcome doubt through the gift of faith. Should you accept the job transfer? Should you and your wife have the baby when doctors are telling you there is a significant chance that your child will be born with a serious birth defect? Should you follow your heart and become a priest? Should you stand up for what you believe in even though your conviction may fall victim to secular cowardice. Perhaps the latter is why Dante, author of The Divine Comedy, placed a number of his enemies in the first circle of Hell because of their complacency and refusal to stand up for what is right.



Genesis 22:1-3, 9-12 – Faith is not Commonplace or Ordinary

Sometime afterward, God put Abraham to the test and said to him: Abraham! "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There offer him up as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you.

Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac, and after cutting the wood for the burnt offering, set out for the place of which God had told him.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he bound his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am," he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the angel. "Do not do the least thing to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you did not withhold from me your son, your only one."

The Word of the Lord - Verbum Domini

God never sleeps,
God always hears
your problem, just
waiting for a moment
because God will
give a miracle to
you.

Catechism

1816 - Faith and Christian Witness

The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it. "All however must be prepared to confess Christ before men and to follow him along the way of the Cross, amidst the persecutions which the Church never lacks." Service of and witness to the faith is necessary for salvation: "So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my father who is in Heaven."

Modern Comment

Faith – Trust in God

David Eich

As a senior sales executive for a Fortune 500 Company Jeremy was the obvious choice to launch a new cleaning service in the educational market. Though his marketing plan contained all the usual strategies, months of inactivity and failure was beginning to take its toll. As a result, he scheduled a meeting with the CEO to resign his position.



A day before that meeting, Jeremy received a phone call from a friend who invited him to a state-wide superintendent's dinner. His friend said, "Jeremy, you never know who you might meet." That evening the weather was terrible as blinding snow almost hid a stranger standing in the middle of the road with his hand out holding a business card. Frustrated, Jeremy took the card and gave him a couple of dollars and then proceeded to the convention hall.

The result was the same: no interest, and no hope for an order. Later that evening Jeremy returned to his apartment where he fell on his knees and cried out to God asking the Lord to show him what he should do.

The following morning Jeremy was getting dressed when he noticed the stranger's business card on the kitchen table. Picking up the card he discovered that there was no name, phone number, or email address listed. Instead the card displayed a number of hand signs commonly reserved for those who were deaf. Jeremy threw the card in the trash.

Arriving at corporate headquarters Jeremy proceeded directly to the CEO's office when he was suddenly intercepted by his secretary who handed him a newspaper clipping about an east coast school system requesting RFP's for cleaning services.

A moment later another sales executive came up to Jeremy and handed him a second article from a west coast newspaper about another school system's need for a cleaning contractor. Jeremy immediately said to his secretary, "Mary, please cancel the meeting with the CEO. There is business out there waiting for us!"

When asked how he knew Jeremy responded, "Both systems were schools for the deaf."

**Common sense relies on your limited abilities and understanding;
Faith relies on God's unlimited abilities.**

Questions for Discussion:

1. Can you share an experience where your faith conquered your doubt about a decision you made? Can you recall a time in your life when another's action or inaction was a testimony to the power of faith?

2. What part of this "Modern Comment" resonated most with you? Explain.

**Men's Group Calendar****A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.**

8/25/2018	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
9/8/2018	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
9/22/2018	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
10/13/2018	Men's Group	7 AM Mass

Bring Christ into the Emptiness of Our Lives

- Spend time with Lord Jesus in Adoration. Silence fills the emptiness. Silence isn't an absence; it's presence.
- Spend time with those who bring joy to life. Family, friends, church...
- Invite Christ into your relationships. Acknowledge His presence in every moment, whether you're alone or with others; pray together.
- Ask God for Deeper Trust. Doubting is OK if we bring it honestly to Him. He can & will use that to bring you to a place of Deeper Trust in Him.
- Just be in the emptiness, not running from it, not trying to fix or fill it. Letting Him love you and do the work He wants you to do.
- Ask: What is Christ trying to teach me during this period of emptiness? How does He want me to grow from this experience?

WHEN I'M
WORRIED, IT'S
USUALLY BECAUSE
I'M TRYING TO
DO EVERYTHING
MYSELF. WHEN
I'M AT PEACE, IT'S
USUALLY BECAUSE
I REMEMBER
THAT GOD IS IN
CONTROL

Fill the Emptiness of Life with Christ. Allow a place for Jesus to reside in your heart. Spend time with Jesus.

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group




Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who you put into my life. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them peace and mercy. Where there is doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need and emptiness with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

Confess to be Forgiven? *Where is that in the Bible...*

Old Covenant		New Covenant
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leviticus 5:5-6• Leviticus 16:20-21• Leviticus 26:40-42• Numbers 5:6-7• Nehemiah 1:6• Psalm 32:5• Matthew 3:5-6• Mark 1:4-5		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 John 1:9



"Spend as much time as possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament and He will fill you with His strength and His power." -Mother Teresa

PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID OR WHAT YOU SAID, BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

GO TO CONFESSION. ILLUMINATE CHRIST.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9
