

St James News: Thought for the day – Wednesday 8th July 2020

How strong is your faith? – by Revd John Ohen

In most cases faith always involves a battle between belief and doubt.

Faith believes the unbelievable, and it expects the unexpected, and it hopes against hope, and trust against trust. Faith can move mountains and faith believes that through God and in God all things are possible.

The big question is “how big is your faith or what type of faith” do you have? Is your faith deep and sure, confident, and true; or is it weak and shallow? Is it faith that brings inner peace, grace, and healing, like in the case of Jairus’ daughter and the woman who suffered from haemorrhage for twelve years? Jesus confirmed that it was her faith that healed her. “Take heart daughter - - your faith has healed you” (Matthew 9: v 22 NIV) and the woman was healed from that moment.

However, if we have faith, it will be **tested and refined**, regarding the way we think about God’s intervention through miracles. The point to note here is that **faith is the ears and eyes of our souls**. Faith can move us to trust God more, especially when it comes to matters of life and death. Hebrew 11 (Faith in Action) Hebrew 11, has a lot to say about Faith and (V: 1) “Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”.

PRAYER: Lord we believe, please help our unbelief, and transform our faith into a healing faith and draw me closer to you day by day. AMEN.

HYMN: [Father I place into your hands the things I cannot do.](#)

Father, I Place Into Your Hands
The Things I Cannot Do,
Father, I Place Into Your Hands
The Things That I’ve Been Through.
Father, I Place Into Your Hands
The Way That I Should Go,
For I Know I Always Can Trust You.

Father, I Place Into Your Hands
My Friends And Family.
Father, I Place Into Your Hands
The Things That Trouble Me.
Father, I Place Into Your Hands
The Person I Would Be,
For I Know I Always Can Trust You.

Father, We Love To See Your Face,
We Love To Hear Your Voice.
Father, We Love To Sing Your Praise
And In Your Name Rejoice.
Father, We Love To Walk With You
And In Your Presence Rest,
For We Know We Always Can Trust You.

Father, I Want To Be With You
And Do The Things You Do.
Father, I Want To Speak The Words
That You Are Speaking Too.
Father, I Want To Love The Ones
That You Will Draw To You,
For I Know That I Am One With You.

Additional Prayers from the Methodist Church:

Grant, O God, that we may be united to you and to our neighbour with an undivided love; serve you and your children with an undivided heart and reverence you and your creation with an undivided will; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Scotus Erigena (c.810-877)

Lord, you are a covenant God. Let us always remember that when we must make decisions, for ourselves or for our communities, you are central and always faithful. May we never shun you or forget your covenant with us but look for your eternal wisdom and guidance. Amen.

Margaret Fancy, North Lancashire Circuit (Inspired by Deuteronomy 31:8)

