

True Faith

Several years ago, I heard a story that was told about Martin Luther, the reformer. He and another man were discussing several aspects of Christianity when Luther was asked what he thought faith was. The other man wanted a definition.

Luther asked the other man to accompany him to the cellar of the house in which Luther was staying. There were no lights in the cellar. From the bottom of the stairs, Luther called for his small daughter. When she reached to door of the cellar, she called to her father, asking where he was. "I'm down in the cellar," he answered, "JUMP!" Without hesitation, Luther's daughter flung herself into the darkness. It didn't matter that she couldn't see her father. All that mattered was that he had called her and told her to jump. And jump she did. "That," Luther replied to his friend, "is faith."

Another story is told of a man who had successfully walked a tightrope across Niagra Falls pushing a barrel in front of him. Everybody praised him because of his skill. When asked if they thought he could accomplish the same feat again, on in the crowd said, "Of course, you can do it successfully every time you attempt it." "If you really have faith that I can," the daredevil replied, "GET IN THE BARREL!"

That's what our faith has to be. It's that "get in the barrel" kind of faith that is well pleasing to God. Believe so much in the life your faith leads you to live that you put it to work in your life every day. Fling yourself headlong into the darkness that we call life, knowing God is always there to bear you up.

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that "faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Our faith convinces us that the Bible is truth. Our faith makes us sure that all the promises we have received from God will be fulfilled. James takes faith a step further by telling us that "faith without works is dead." Our faith is to impact our lives so much that we put it to work in our daily walk before God. Others will know we are Christians because our faith causes us to do the will of God on earth so we can realize the rewards we have been promised.

Jesus said that with enough faith we can move mountains. Our faith can help us conquer the molehills of life that become mountains when we don't depend upon God to help us. Our faith and dependence upon Him will assure us of our final reward – eternity with Him in heaven.