WALK IN LOVE

as Christ loved us and gave himself for us.

Ephesians 5:2

Proper 22 | Luke 17:5-10
October 2, 2016

Reflection by
John Daniel Herrera –

Faith. Something that a lot of us are missing lately. A simple definition of faith is confidence or trust in a person or thing. Another could be belief that is not based on proof. So now that I have the definition, how do I use it in my life?

In the 21st century, faith seems less common in our society. In biblical times, you can read many different stories about faith, like when Moses opened up the waters or when Jesus healed the blind and the sick. Nowadays, one is not able to read many of those stories. So I'd like to share one of mine.

My father had an accident about a year ago at work. He slipped and fell, breaking the back of his head and causing a severe concussion. For two months he had to be in bed and not move. His recovery time should've been longer, but he is the only one in our family with an income.

I can remember many things. I can remember that when we came back from the hospital, he said he could see cars flying. He also became desperate in cars because of the tight space. All problems he had never had before. He needed help to walk and hated noise. He wanted to lock himself in his room and not come out. He thought he would never be the same again. But his faith has helped him recover.

He did not expect magically to wake up and be like he was before the accident, but he had faith that God would give him the strength to stand up again and go to work. And it happened. One day he woke up and slowly started to walk. He returned to work. He was dizzy, and not able to move easily, but he had faith that God would help.

It took him almost 6 months to recover. He still has back and shoulder pain, but he has faith that the doctors will help him heal completely.

In 2 Peter we read to “make every effort." It is not the amount of faith that matters, but the quality of faith. One small seed of mustard can grow into a beautiful tree. We must have faith. If someone looks at a mountain and says, "Move from here to there," and has no doubt in his heart, then it will happen.

God will help you, even when your faith is the size of a mustard seed. When the apostles said, "Increase our faith," Jesus was frustrated by their lack of faith, because even if they had a small amount – it would have been sufficient.

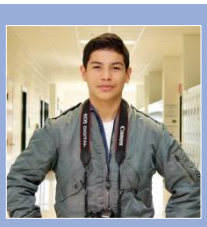
I am an eighth grader, have many different leadership roles at school, and am fortunate to have good grades. But my good grades don't randomly happen, and the effort I need isn’t randomly fulfilled. I work hard towards my goals, but my work would be of no value if I didn't have faith. When I wake up in the morning, I have faith that I will go to school and accomplish the tasks I need to fulfill. My faith accompanies my work and my actions for the day. Without faith, I am nothing.

God doesn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, or sun without rain. But He does promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.

If we are speaking in a 21st century language, we can say that faith is like Wi-Fi. It is invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need. Faith is seeing light with your heart when all your eyes can see is darkness.

Reflection Questions

- How would you define faith? Is it like Wi-Fi to you?
- When have you seen faith in action?



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Learn more about Emmanuel Episcopal in Richmond at: www.emmanuelrichmond.org