

The Thing About Faith Is

(Rev. Wendell "Skip" Wright, Kapena Wright Ministries, 8-25-03)

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

The writer commented, "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this, they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

This article is an excellent lesson in faith and is a true story.

Most of us who are Christians are aware and remember that ***Hebrews 11:1*** teaches us that, "***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.***," and continues a few short verses later (***v. 6***) with the stark reality that, "***..without faith, it is impossible to please God.***" (NKJV)

But, too often, we forget to read the verses prior to, in between, and following those two particular verses.

For instance, in the book of ***Hebrews, Chapter 10***, especially from ***verse 26 to 39*** which leads up to ***11:1***, is our reminder that "***the just shall live by faith..***" (***v. 38***)

The Amplified Bible reads this way, (***Heb. 10:38***) "***But the just shall live by faith [My righteous servant shall live by his conviction respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, and holy fervor born of faith and conjoined with it]; and if he draws back and shrinks in fear, My soul has no delight or pleasure in him. [Hab. 2:3,4]***"

We're reminded throughout the ***11th chapter of Hebrews*** of and provided examples of faith in action through the "***elders***" ('***men of old*** [*includes women*] as the Amplified refers to them), such as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, to name a few) and the results of their faith and "faith-full-ness".

We do well if we remember these awesome models of faith and reflect on the fact that our faith should be as strong as, if not stronger than theirs, because we now have Jesus as the example of THE WORD OF FAITH brought to life, and the Holy Spirit living within us to bring that FAITH to LIFE in each of us who know JESUS as LORD.

And never forget, "***When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!***" (unknown writer..)