

"Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees. **But Now It Is Come Upon Thee**, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled." *Job 4:4-5 KJV*

Faith is easy on a smooth path, but let their path become obscured with dark circumstances and many believers flee faith into the outer darkness of doubt! Temporal life becomes their only reality and eternal life quickly becomes mythology! Faith trusts in God's Word about what can neither be tasted, touched, smelt, seen, nor heard.

"Faith is the Substance of things Hoped for; the Evidence of THINGS NOT SEEN! The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now...even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the Adoption, to wit, the Redemption of our body. For we are Saved by hope: but HOPE THAT IS SEEN IS NOT HOPE: For what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for [it]? But if we hope for [what] we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also Helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit Itself Maketh Intercession for us with Groanings which cannot be uttered." We say we believe God, but talk is cheap. True faith is demonstrated by the obedience of them that believe in the storm! "And hereby we do



know that we know Him, IF we keep His Commandments. He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His Commandments, is a liar, and the Truth is not in him. For this is [our] love of God, that we keep His Commandments: and His Commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God Overcometh the world: and this is the Victory that Overcometh the world, **EVEN OUR FAITH.**" God's Words are His blessings. Obedience to His Commandments Guides us to His Bountiful Provision, both spiritually and materially. Blessing inspires doing, not thinking. James explains it; "But whoso looketh into the Perfect Law of Liberty, and continueth Therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but A DOER of the work, this man shall be Blessed in his deed." "Yea, a man may say, 'Thou hast faith, and I have works:' show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? In other words, good works are the evidence existing faith, but do not produce it. You can "good work" your fingers to the bone and not gain an ounce of faith, because "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Did your mom ever say to you, "Did you hear what I said?" She wasn't interested in your hearing, but in your doing! Faith "is the Gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast." We obey, because we believe. Mom and Dad would sing a chorus in dark times that comforted our hearts and bolstered our faith. You may know its author; I do not, but the words are forever etched in my memory:

Faith, mighty Faith! The Promises that look to God alone!
Laughs at impossibilities and shouts, "It shall be done!"
And shouts and shouts "It shall be done!"
And shouts and shouts "It shall be done!"
Laughs at impossibilities and shouts, "It shall be done!"

God's Word comes to full meaning at the death of a child or family member. Diamonds are best viewed on black velvet under bright light, but at best they only reflect the light. True faith is always apparent in the hour of darkest trial, because it is then the Light they reflect shines brightest. Joy is not considered supernatural until it springs forth in trial. Faith sees with calm assurance beyond pain and death! True believers confidently say:

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21 KJV