

# FAITH

Christ recognized faith as a great attribute of the human soul. Being aware of its power and magnitude, he said: "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, 'Remove hence to yonder place.' and it shall remove and nothing shall be impossible to you." (Matt. 17:20)

Endowed with faith, humanity has magnified its strength, courage and power. Humanity's greatness has been displayed by obscure individuals who have had faith in an idea or an ideal. Faith is the great, inspiring and buoyant force that tides us over the difficulties of life, the uncertainties, disappointments and failures that tend to obstruct the path of progression. Whenever a powerful, one-directional drive takes possession of your life it can always be traced to faith in or knowledge of a vision, a plan another person or persons.

Faith means confidence in the integrity of the natural world order, in the infallibility of law and in uniformity among the facts of cause and effect. It is an abiding trust that all is well because life is governed and protected by Superlative Powers which do not fail.

In the beginning humanity knew the powers that governed and protected individual lives. Everyone knew the laws of Nature and their unflinching results. So long as people were simple and obedient all activities aligned with a perfect confidence that life was governed to promote humanity's highest well-being.

Through personal indiscretions humanity began to transgress the laws of being. As its nature became darkened the light that was still able to penetrate the errors took on the coloring of those increasing impurities and their operations and results became correspondingly mixed.

Opposites of good and evil were born in this state and the long conflict began. One of the first costs that erring humanity paid was the sweet, peace-preserving faith in the happy fruition of life and its activities.

Faith on the physical plane is prompted and controlled almost entirely by organic forces that are basically unconscious. But human beings, endowed with reason and the power of abstract thought, employ faith as a substitute for exact knowledge in our efforts to interpret the meaning and value of life. We penetrate beneath the surface of things looking beyond the facts of immediate experience. In the absence of tangible evidence faith must supply the inspiration and courage to go ahead.

When you center your intelligence on objectives you desire to achieve, such intellectual endeavor is always inspired by faith in something. In scientific investigations and in philosophical thought you must rely on faith to provide the realities not present in consciousness. You must always accept unknown factors or qualities on faith to complete the solution, the structure, the design.

In the healing realm are many and varied systems but all of them depend on faith for their effectiveness. Even Christ, the Great Healer, recognized that faith was a necessary requisite to cure.

Faith is the master key to great discovery, invention and achievement. Faith is not blind, artificial, or credulous nor is it synonymous with ordinary belief. Belief is of the intellect but faith is of the soul.

There is a saying that no person is the whole of him or herself; those to whom we give our faith are the rest of us. When you transcend the limits of your being and reach out to others whom you understand and sincerely believe incorporating and blending your life with theirs then your life becomes transformed, empowered and enriched.

Only by believing in others does your personality reach its fullest and highest state of development. In all human contacts and relationships faith is the keynote of success. In the home, the community, the nation and the world at large, faith in the people concerned is indispensable in securing lasting harmony, understanding, peace and happiness.

You cannot find real happiness in love that does not also encompass faith. Romantic love may constitute the nature and basis of many a home but the substance of faith is essential in assuring its permanency. Without this abiding trust, the home is but a dwelling place built on the foundations of shifting sands. Faith is the bond that perpetuates human understanding and friendship.

All thoughts strive for outward bodily expression. Thoughts of health are vastly more important than thoughts of illness. To the degree that thoughts are positive they will materialize themselves in the body as health. So the manner in which you handle your faith-function is vitally important even to physical health. We can no longer separate the physical and the psychic in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. The whole person is involved in illness and its cure. The importance of a constructive use of the faith function cannot be over-emphasized.

Where there is no faith there is no cure unless the illness is caused by a purely physical medium. Whenever the mind is involved, as in the great majority of illnesses, faith is imperative. Miracles of healing always result when the one to be healed comes into harmony with the Divine by applying physical, mental, and spiritual laws.

Viewed in this light, you can no longer regard miracles as supernatural. If the whole being body, mind and soul is master over fear, anxiety, hatred, resentment, jealousy, selfishness, you automatically bring yourself in harmony with a great part of Divine Law. Consequently, you become strengthened, physically, mentally and spiritually.

When you lose faith in life you can be compared to a boat without a rudder tossed about on the waves of life. This condition is not conducive to health and happiness. Mental and spiritual dissatisfaction often results when you lack faith in the wholeness of life. This brings so much

bitterness and confusion that it causes physical disharmonies. We can trace many physical diseases to this cause.

Nothing is more effective in bracing a shattered or broken life than positive faith. However futile, useless, or deplorable a situation may appear faith will buoy up your spirit. This is especially true with genuine religious faith. Although the faith function is often exposed to grave misuse in the religious realm confident faith is still the only salvation for many insecure and shaken lives. Such people will never find solace, coherence and peace of mind without it.

People today seek and long for a method of harmonizing with the Divine within. Religion satisfies some people. A great majority of us, however, are seekers. Somewhere along life's highway we may find a system of thought or of philosophy that gives us that priceless attribute of faith. Only when we find the Truth, or True Knowledge, do we no longer need faith to satisfy our seeking soul. Only by understanding and obeying the laws governing the body, mind and soul can we hope to realize any real emancipation from illness, negative thought, and limitation.

Often when a crisis occurs in your life you discover that your beliefs are not your real beliefs at all. You become aware that beneath this superficial creedalism is your true attitude toward and concept of life. This is your real faith a complete view of the meaning of life in this universe, a powerful force that must find expression in shaping your character and personality. One of life's tragedies is when a person has nothing tangible in which to place faith. That person becomes neurotic, ill, discontented and fearful. Life then has no plan and therefore no meaning. To such an individual faith in something or someone revitalizes the whole being-body, mind and soul.

Many people claim to feel a quality called faith in God. This abstract idea is based on widely divergent theories that have accumulated as humanity has passed through the different stages of intellectual development. If faith is not born of a clear understanding of unvarying and irrefutable truths it degenerates into a pretense or counterfeit emotion set on a foundation of shifting beliefs.

To gain the truth underlying all these inherited and acquired beliefs you must analyze them thoroughly. You all have your own interpretation of life's basic meaning. You obtained this idea through your environment and by association with persons and things. When you apply the light of truth you can easily discard the false ideas.

The idea that faith is associated only with your religious experience results from incorrect reasoning. Faith is a faculty of the soul that finds its most perfect expression in the spiritual nature. But it must be developed in all of its phases to manifest its complete character. Spiritual understanding does not imply anything strange, unnatural or incomprehensible. But it does mean that your belief in goodness must be the supreme master over any apparent manifestation of evil.

You must have faith in the Laws of the Soul if through their operation you hope to mold your character and shape your personality. Success in life depends on the faith you have in others,

while the goal of achievement that you have set for yourself is anchored in the faith you have in your own ability. You must have faith in the beneficence of Law as applied to life, for the Source of all Law is the Omnipotent God.

Faith is an inherent attribute of the human soul. As the soul has evolved throughout all the past ages it has retained the essence of the memories of its past lives and knows by experience that in each crisis God always comes to its aid. From this experience you draw the priceless attribute of faith in the eternal upward progression of life.

When crises come into human affairs your mind becomes confused. The confusion leads to discord and fear. People see the old order being swept away and view the future with bewilderment. But, as in the past, God always prepares someone who has been selected and trained. When the stage has been set that person assumes and plays the destined role.

Two thousand years ago such a crisis came upon the earth. Rome was in her glory; she dreamed of philosophy and dominions without end. But a new age dawned with the birth of Christ. He ministered in Palestine and taught the new philosophy of life. Men of that day didn't know that His message gave birth to a new species of thought but after two thousand years have elapsed we of this generation can see that His message was the end of an era.

There is a similar crisis today and not one nation but all nations are involved. The world is confused and afraid. Everywhere people look for a teacher. Where is the person whom God has selected, whose mind holds the remedy for the world's ills? In whose heart is the spirit and in whose hand lies the power to alleviate the sufferings of the world? From the hearts of people the world over a cry has gone forth for a teacher and from the bosom of God that teacher shall come. The world awaits.

What will that person's mission be? What could it be but to carry the work of the Spirit one step further. The day has passed when humanity can go forward with greed as a criterion. This new age being ushered in demands that we be Children of God in deed and not merely in name. Until this teacher comes, this new age will drag slowly along. When the great destined personality arrives upon the earth whatever that person says, teaches and does will prove that person to be the Chosen One.

Then, due to the new teaching, science will be your religion and religion your art. We will cease to be slaves of unknown forces. Then we will know that this universe and all life is ordained by beneficent Law that your body, mind and soul are governed by Law and only through obedience to these Laws shall you assume your heritage.

Those who obey the Law will know Divinity within; those who transgress it will descend into the abyss from which they came. Until that hour the Spirit toils at its hidden work. Through the hidden light the Spirit reveals to advanced souls its process of evolution while shaping from out of the dust the immortal Children of God.

Christ foretold that the time would come when the knowledge of God's Laws would cover the earth. The Prophet was right. People are losing faith in the philosophies that embody superstitions and fears and are beginning to understand that this is a universe of law and order. Jesus declared many times that faith was essential for the many remarkable healings of his ministry. The secret of this teaching is that faith was needed in the absence of perfect knowledge of the laws involved.

Faith is necessary when we possess limited knowledge in the thing in which we have faith. But when we obtain perfect knowledge of that thing faith is no longer needed. Faith is the great transforming power of all life and brings in its wake the Divine inheritances of health, happiness and the more abundant life.

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