



Scripture nugget – True faith soars high above human reason

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested (Hebrews 11:1-2).

Faith is a free gift from God available to everyone. We do not deserve the gift but we need it for our salvation. Salvation is not through our good works alone but by grace through our faith in Jesus Christ (cf. Ephesians 2:8). Through faith, we embrace the truths of God as revealed by Jesus Christ and God's prophets before Christ came in the flesh. God desires everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (cf. 1Timothy 2:4). Human reasoning may help us to understand our faith better but it is not the foundation of our faith. Human reasoning, also a gift from God, operates on the human level. Faith ascends to the spiritual level. Our belief is our voluntary response to the revealed truths of God. It is a deliberate act of our freewill to assent to the divine doctrine as taught by the Church. We are certainly not left to our own devices as we search for the truth. The Holy Spirit within our souls is the Spirit of Truth. With His gentle promptings and inspirations, we are being led into the immutable truths of God if our hearts are open to this. *But when He comes, the Spirit of Truth, He will guide you to all truth... (John 16:13).* This is the promise of Christ.

We practise a poor, watered-down version of faith if unconsciously we limit it by our human reasoning. We have so much to learn from Scripture greats such as Abraham, our Blessed Mother Mary and Daniel and his friends, just to name a few. Some "delicate" minds have found it extremely difficult to accept the truth of the story of God asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Unconscientiously to appease their delicate but false conscience they relegate this truth to being "a fable". This is in line with the human reasoning that God would not be "so cruel" to ask Abraham to sacrifice and kill Isaac. However, once we start judging God, His actions or doctrine with human criteria, we stand on the shaky ground of error and sin. God is not man and He has rights above and beyond that of man. Only God can take back human life in whatever way He desires. This is His right and He is doing it every second of the day when people die. Whatever suffering is involved, God can make use of it for the eternal good of the sufferer if the suffering is accepted. Whatever he felt, Abraham never questioned God but set out to do as God asked. He certainly earned his title "Father in faith". It was the same with our Blessed Mother. Though her personal safety was involved, she said her fiat to Angel Gabriel when asked by God to be the mother of the Saviour. The same faith was also manifested by young Daniel and his friends who said to the pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar: *"There is no need for us to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If our God, whom we serve, can save us from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O king, may he save us! But even if He will not, you should know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up."* (Daniel 3:16-18).

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, give me a faith that is steadfast and unwavering. Give me wisdom to understand my faith through a daily meditation of Your Word and a sincere prayer life. Impart to me a faith that never question Your motives or wisdom but let me trust You like a young child trusts its mother. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.