

## Scripture Reading

### A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (*Hebrews 11:1*)

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### Reflection ~ True faith is to trust absolutely in God, His Word, His Promises in all circumstances

**Faith is a free supernatural gift from God. It is a supernatural virtue infused by God (cf. CCC 153).** Faith is not earned by any person. It is not withheld from any person. This is because God wants everyone to be saved and come to a knowledge of the Truth (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4). The eternal, unchanging Truth is Jesus Christ (cf. John 14:6). Everything He stands for: His teachings, His Word is true and unchanging. The doctrine of our Christian faith is not man-made but divine. Thus, the Church has no authority to alter, amend, subtract or add to its doctrine even under pressures from the uncomprehending secular world which in recent times is growing in hostility to the divine truths of our priceless faith. It is Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God Who reveals to us God, the Father. *No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him (Matthew 11:27).*

**Without faith, it is impossible to please God (cf. Hebrews 11:6).** God's greatest desire is to save each and every one of His children. Beyond a shadow of doubt, He has demonstrated His love for each and every one of His children when He made a great personal sacrifice when He sent Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son to redeem the whole human race through His precious Blood shed on the Cross on Calvary. Without faith in the one true God, the faithless soul cannot claim eternal salvation in the Name of Jesus Christ, and Christ's Supreme Sacrifice goes to waste for that poor soul.

**Faith is first of all a personal adherence of man to God (cf. CCC 150).** In His infinite wisdom, God created us to find our ultimate fulfillment in none other than Himself. Without God reigning in our heart, we may search every inch of the universe to seek every pleasure, every joy, every gratification, every sensation, every wonder but the end of the day of our life will still find our inmost being empty, restless and unfulfilled. However, God has made no one to be empty, restless and unfulfilled but each is precious to Him (cf. Luke 15:4) and is worth the precious Blood of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ Whom He sent to redeem every sinner so that all can walk on the true path to His Kingdom where His glorious, eternal inheritance awaits each and every one of His children. God is near to those who seek Him in truth (cf. Psalm 145:8).

**The obedience of faith.** With faith comes obedience to God. To obey in faith is to submit freely to God's Word that has been revealed to us because its truth is guaranteed by God Who is truth itself (cf. CCC 144). Thus by faith, through the help of God's grace and the working of the Holy Spirit within us, we completely and freely submit our intellect and will to God. It does not go against reason because if we can believe and trust a human person whom we found trustworthy, all the more we can trust God Who has revealed Himself with many proofs as Love, Truth, our Creator and our Saviour. Christian faith differs from faith in any human person. *It is right and just to entrust oneself wholly to God and to believe absolutely what He says. It would be futile and false to place such faith in a creature (CCC 150).*

**True faith is to trust absolutely in God, His Word, His Promises in all circumstances.** God has raised up numerous saints for us to draw inspiration from so that our faith may become solid like a rock. Abraham, the Father of all who believe, obeyed God's call to uproot himself and his family, despite his advanced age, to go to a foreign place he did not know of. Later, he would be ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac at the command of God. By faith, Noah when warned about things not yet seen, in godly fear built an ark to save his family. By faith, Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. By faith, Daniel's three young friends entered the raging furnace, unafraid, reasoning that the God they believed in can help them. Our Blessed Mother Mary is the perfect embodiment of obedience in faith. As the perfect disciple of Jesus Who was obedient unto death on the holy Cross, Mary accepted God's will for her even when she did not fully understand it and at the cost of her personal safety.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, thank You for the priceless gift of faith in the one, true God. Increase my faith by nourishing me with Your Word and Sacraments. Deepen my bond with You through my prayers, sacrifices and good works. Fill my soul with all the graces I need to do Your will every day in order to show my love for You. Give me strength in mind and spirit to be always faithful to Your teachings, and to witness to and uphold the Truth at all times even in times of adversity. Through Your mercy and in memory of Your Passion on Calvary, open all hardened hearts to accept Your love, mercy and salvation. Mary, Mother of Salvation, You who are the perfect embodiment of obedience in faith, pray that we will remain true to the Truth always and everywhere. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. [www.twohearts.hk](http://www.twohearts.hk)