

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews** (*Hebrews 11:6*)

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

### **Reflection - Without faith it is impossible to please God** (*Hebrews 11:6*)

**God is so in love with His creation, He is in every one of us.** *For in Him we live and move and have our being* (*Acts 17:28*). God is in every level of us. The light of the Holy Spirit accompanies us every moment of our lives and everywhere we go. On the spiritual level, we are given divine inspirations at every present moment to move closer to God, the Eternal Light for whom and by whom we are created. On the emotional level, the Holy Spirit, our Comforter provides consolation and solace for our emotional hurts and rejection. On the physical level, the human body as the temple of the Holy Spirit has its in-built healing qualities of rest and regeneration from the daily toil and fatigue. With the light of God always present to him as long as he is alive, man in reality is never without hope regardless of how he feels. In view of the level in which God involves Himself with man, how could God be happy with the faithless one seeing that He is so close to each of His creature and cares so much for each?

**Radiant faith to do things only out of love for God.** For God's children, holy love is to be the sole guide to life (cf. *Matthew 22:34-39*). Holy love places God in His rightful place, a place that is only reserved for God. With holy love as guide, our actions will be founded on pure intentions. It will be done out of love for God and for the welfare of those whom God loves (which is everybody). Actions which are simple and repetitive need not become tedious and boring. Such deeds united to the manual labours of Jesus of Nazareth, purified by His Precious Blood and lovingly offered to God can become infinite in value from the eternity perspective.

**Steadfast faith remains peaceful amid trials and tribulations.** Faith recognizes trials and tribulations for what they are – for our testing and purification. Faith is mere sentiment till it is tested and proven. As gold is purified in the crucible, God tests His beloved people to prove them worthy of Himself. Once our hearts are in right standing with God, we can understand this perfectly. We need to be purified of our sins and to restore back the garment of grace given to us at our Baptism. *He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless* (*Matthew 22:12*). We do this through the Sacrament of Confession, penance, good deeds, our prayer life and patient acceptance and endurance of trials and difficulties.

**Shining faith that sees things from eyes of God.** How many times do we discourage those around us with our own human opinion and forgetting about God's role in the situations that affect us? Active and living faith is not discouraged by human opinions but makes room for role of God in every aspect of our lives, believing that with God, nothing is impossible (cf. *Luke 1:37*), His Promises will forever stand (cf. *Matthew 24:35*) and that He cares for us even better than the most tender of mothers (cf. *Isaiah 49:15*). How much trouble would have been avoided if we do not rely completely on our own devices but beseech God's help and make room for God's loving action in our life situations.

### **Conversation with Jesus**

Precious Lord, from the very beginning God our Father has predestined me to be His child through You (cf. *Ephesians 1:5*). For this purpose He has given me the great gift of faith so that I may journey safely back to our Father in heaven following You in Your footsteps. I have been put into this world that I may do good works for our Heavenly Father (cf. *Ephesians 2:10*) and to bring the reign of God into every heart that crosses my path (cf. *Matthew 28:19-20*). Life is not easy in this ever-changing world filled with artificial lights but I am reminded that the victory that overcomes the world is my faith in You as Son of the Living God (cf. *1 John 5:4-5*). I maybe weak but You are with me and I carry the power of the Truth. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, please shelter my faith in Your Immaculate Heart. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.