

Reflections (continued from inside.)

spend time reading God's Word. Studying his principles, along with the events and lives of those who knew God in a personal way can teach us how to walk by faith and live virtually unshaken by the problems of our day and age.

Another thing about perfect faith is that it teaches us how to enjoy intimacy with God. Although Moses was God's friend and he talked with the Lord, worshipped him and obeyed him, he never experienced the depth of intimacy that is available to us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. God revealed himself to Moses, but always there was a shadow of formality covering his relationship to God. Today, God abides with us through his Spirit, and we have an opportunity to experience what the Old Testament saints longed to experience, that is to enjoy God on a personal level. But the issue of faith still remains: before we can experience God we must believe that he is and that he loves us unconditionally.

The proof of God's loving desire

towards us The greatest proof of God's loving desire toward us is Jesus Christ. He is the fulfilment of God's promise to humankind. Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, God said: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which translated means, 'God with us.' " (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23). Jesus *is* with you. He is righteous and just, long-suffering and patient. He is your immutable God – he never changes. And on this we can build a strong foundation to our faith. He is all that he can be. The book of Hebrews assures us there is no variation in God (13:8). So great is God's love that he invites us to test it.

"O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" (Psalm 34:8)

(Continued on the back of the prayer sheet.....)

Reflections continued

Developing a "seeking heart"

Don't be afraid to test God's goodness and faithfulness. He waits for us to come to him with a seeking heart. As you think through your difficult situation, ask him to calm your fears. Pray that he will reveal himself to you as he helps you to understand why life sometimes takes painful turns. Such experiences have the potential to either take us away from God or to draw us closer to him. The experience coping with the death of a close friend some ten years ago led another friend of mine to distance himself from God yet simultaneously brought me to Christ. For the believer, difficult times are an opportunity to grow in our understanding and appreciation of who God is and of his relationship to us. He is strong in his love for you. Therefore, let your need, whatever it is, however painful and potentially faith-shaking, drive you to him. In doing so you will discover a loving, faithful God who is personally involved in every area of your life. When all around you is causing you pain, he will be there, feeling the pain with you.

Quotes:

It's a good thing to have all the props pulled out from under us occasionally. It gives us some sense of what is rock under our feet, and what is sand.
—Madeleine L'Engle

We often think of great faith as something that happens spontaneously so that we can be used for a miracle or healing. However, the greatest faith of all, and the most effective, is to live day by day trusting Him. It is trusting Him so much that we look at every problem as an opportunity to see His work in our life. —Rick Joyner

Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.
—Augustine

Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservations. —Elton Trueblood

Comments/suggestions regarding this leaflet please to Errol Niblett (NiblettEL@mac.com)



Facing life's crises with faith

'Unbelief puts our circumstances between us and God. But faith puts God between us and our circumstances.' —F B Mayer

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." [Hebrews 11:1]

The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety. —George Müller

I will have nothing to do with a God who cares only occasionally. I need a God who is with us always, everywhere, in the deepest depths as well as the highest heights. It is when things go wrong, when good things do not happen, when our prayers seem to have been lost, that God is most present. We do not need the sheltering wings when things go smoothly. We are closest to God in the darkness, stumbling along blindly. Madeleine L'Engle

Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time. Oswald Chambers

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