

Faith & Love

Monday, 6/29/09 – Read Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: We say that we believe in God, and we say that we have faith in God. Probably, though, when we say these things, we are claiming something more than the bare assertion that God exists. This week, let’s explore that “something more.” When you say you have faith in God, what are you saying? ... Today’s reading says that faith is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” What do those phrases express for you? Is that your sense of faith? ... Read carefully verses 8-12. What was Abraham’s faith like? How was it expressed? ... How has your faith in God been expressed in your life?

Tuesday, 6/30/09 – Read Luke 18:9-14

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Jesus’ parable compares two people. Both of them believe that God exists. Both of them pray to God. Yet the point of Jesus’ little story is that one of them is much more attractive than the other. ... Maybe real faith is not just believing that God exists but is relating to God in a particular way. How did each of these two in Jesus’ parable relate to God? For each one, what attitude was produced by the way he related to God?

Wednesday, 7/1/09 – Read Ephesians 1:15-16 and Colossians 1:3-4

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Notice in both of today’s short readings that faith and love are mentioned together. (Actually, you can find many verses in the Bible that link faith and love in this way.) ... Do you think real faith and love are always related? Can it really be faith if it doesn’t express itself in love? What do you think? ... Do you sometimes see people claiming to have faith while their actions are devoid of love? Can you write down one specific example?

Thursday, 7/2/09 – Read 1 John 4:7-12

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: 1 John 4 makes the relationship between faith and love explicit. Since God is love, believing in God and trusting God can only mean that we are trusting and expressing divine Love in all our relationships. Do you agree? In your relationships, is love an expression of your faith in God? Can you give an example?

Friday, 7/3/09 – Read Mark 9:20-29

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Have you ever felt like the father in verse 24: “I believe; help my unbelief!” ... Real faith is more than affirming statements in the creeds. It’s about relating to God in a trusting and confident way. (Take another look at

Tuesday's Bible reading.) When do you feel this kind of faith? When do you NOT feel this kind of faith? ... Would it make sense to you to paraphrase the father's statement as: "I trust you; help my faltering trust."? Write down your thoughts about this paraphrase.

Saturday, 7/4/09 – Read Galatians 5:6

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Here is one more verse that expresses the connection between faith and love. It says that "the only thing that counts is faith working through love." What do you think? Is that finally what really matters? ... In your own life, how does faith work through love? Write down one specific example.

Sunday, 7/5/09 – Read Luke 17:5-6

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The point of Jesus' reply was that it doesn't take much faith. Even a tiny little faith, just the size of the little mustard seed, can work miracles. Maybe our problem is that we don't trust the faith we have. Maybe we're too much like the disciples, thinking that we've got to increase our faith before it can make a difference in our lives. ... Is that true for you? Do you discount your faith, thinking that it isn't big or strong enough? ... This week, how can you employ the faith you've got? Decide on one specific plan of action.

My Faith Journal, June 28, 2009

Believing in God #1

Right Belief & Right Way of Belief

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.