

What Does Your Faith Demand?

Do you realize that the faith you cherish in your heart has changed all reality for you? Past, present, and future are all different because you trust Christ.

The past is different because all your sins are gone. God does not remember them against you anymore.

The present is different because He is with you and within you always. You please your holy Father by simply trusting Him.

The future is different because you have an unshakable, unchangeable hope. The God who revealed himself to you will one day reveal Himself fully, and you will live in His presence forever.

That is a powerful and valuable faith. And it is the very same faith that lived in Peter and the apostle Paul, Augustine and John Calvin, Martin Luther and John Wesley. The very same faith.

I look at what those people accomplished in their days — actually, what God accomplished through them. It becomes apparent that they lived as they did because of what they believed.

The apostle Paul believed in the gospel of Christ. He had met the resurrected Christ and had experienced transformation. So when he was called to share that gospel with those who hadn't heard, he did so energetically, traveling, writing, and enduring more than most people would in ten lifetimes.

Martin Luther believed in salvation by faith alone. So when he was called before the religious leaders of his day, under tremendous pressure to recant, he answered, "Here I stand...I can do no other." Church history was changed forever.

John Wesley believed that God provides holy hearts and holy lives, so he lived it and taught it and encouraged it. He believed that God wanted the average person on the street to hear the gospel, so he preached it in the open air, though the church of his day considered that scandalous. And he believed that God still cared about prostitutes, orphans, prisoners, and drunkards, so he aggressively ministered to them in practical ways.

If these Christian brothers were to stand before us now, I'm sure they would say these accomplishments weren't the result of superhuman heroism or some ability of their own. They simply trusted God one step at a time, and did what their faith demanded of them, even when it flew in the face of all that was "accepted" in their day.

What do you believe?

What do your beliefs demand of you?

You are standing in Jesus' presence now, surrounded by needy persons whom He longs to love. Turn to Him and listen. What is He asking You to do? Don't be overwhelmed by the size of the need. Just do the one thing He gives you to do, then keep listening and obeying. Leave the need in His hands.

*Our God is consumed with love and
unlimited in power.
What ministries, now unimagined,
would He choose to do through us
if we prayed more boldly,
trusted Him more simply, and
made ourselves totally available to Him and in Him,
moment by moment?*

Hymn: [God's Mysterious Ways](#)

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