

GOD MATTERS IN MY FAITH

As we approach the second month of the new year I have been thinking about the word 'Faith'. Has my faith grown in a year? How strong is my faith when adversity comes across my path? Do I doubt or do I have complete confidence that God will see me through? 2021 has been a difficult year for many and it certainly brought challenges in my life in ways I was not expecting.

It is easy to put our trust in God when life is on an even path, but troubles and anxiety can make us doubt that God has the answers to all our questions and fears. Cherrie Hill comments in her devotional book, 'He Whispers your Name'. 'I need you to trust Me. It is in your trust in Me that defines your faith. Your faith moves My heart and My hand. Your faith is the driving force that unleashes My presence and power. I know that you believe in Me, but do you fully trust in Me?' My head knows what to believe but does my heart respond to the confidence that God will see me through these difficult times.



As I have been pondering on these things the words of an old hymn came to mind. 1. My faith looks up to thee thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away. O let me from this day be wholly Thine. 2. May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire; as Thou has died for me, O may my love to Thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire. 3. While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be Thou my guide, bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

As a young teenager I accepted the Lamb of Calvary as my Saviour and aspired to live my life for Him over all these years. I have failed many times and fallen short of His glory, but God has not moved from me but is always willing to forgive and be my constant guide through life. My life's circumstances have changed but I know that the God I trust in, is the same yesterday, today and forever. It's a daily lesson for me when I am overwhelmed, to remember to turn to God and to trust him implicitly with my heart and mind and not on my own understanding.

Cherrie Hill also encourages us, 'Don't be discouraged by the trials of life. There may be obstacles, but they are also opportunities – opportunities to

trust instead of doubt, to live in faith instead of fear, to seek My face and fully experience the power of My presence. When you come to Me, expect My presence, receive My peace, and have the confident assurance that I will answer your prayers.'



Earlier I said, 'Has my faith grown in a year and how strong is my faith in diversity'. From reading God's word and the help of devotional books and, of course prayer, my faith has been much stronger than I give myself credit for. I have learnt that I can be too self-judgemental and feel if I can't instantly react in a very spiritual way to a difficult situation, I am failing God in trusting him to meet my every need.

It is in our trust in God and of his provision that we can walk forward in faith with a calm surrender knowing that He is in control and will work all things together for good.

I pray that this honest reflection of how I have felt over 2021 will be a blessing to you and you too will have the confidence to put your complete trust in the Lamb of Calvary who has promised to be with us always regardless of our circumstances. Allow God to matter to You!

We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. 2 Corinthians 4:18

Joan Strong

All-Ireland President MWI