

Can Your Faith Be Seen?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee," **Luke 5:19-20.**

These men who went to so much trouble to bring their friend to the Lord showed their faith thru their actions and efforts. Without faith in the Lord they would not have went to so much time and effort. The man that they carried would never have been healed unless he came into the presence of Jesus and these who carried him was going to make sure that happened. They were powered by the faith that lay within each of them, telling them that Jesus could, and would, heal their friend. The result was that they achieved their goal and were rewarded when the Lord saw their faith in him.

It is said that faith cannot be seen and directly it is not, but like the wind its effects can be witnessed. In this fashion then it can be seen and that is why the Lord could see that these men had faith. How about us, do we have faith that can be seen?

A person who has faith in the Lord will show that faith by the life that is lived. This is not done one day a week, but every day of every week. As we go through this life there are problems that will arise and while they are hurtful and discouraging at times we keep looking to the Lord for the strength and help to overcome them. So many have become downhearted and given up, either thinking that it is too hard, or that they can't make it.

David came to such a spot in his life at least once. His village was attacked while he and his men were away and all of their families were carried off as prisoners of the enemy. "And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God," **1 Samuel 30:6.** He continued to trust in the Lord and in doing so he went on to victory. Time and time again David turned to God and sought his guidance when faced with a challenge. His faith in the Lord was seen in his actions.

What about us and the lives of today's believers? Are we as quick to pray and ask the Lord for help when we are faced with a problem? Some people do and the trials that they endure cause them to rely on God more and more. Others face similar trials and give up because they thought that

life should be easy for them. We do not grow in faith when life is easy, just like the body builder does not get stronger by sitting in an easy chair. Growth comes from exercising our bodies and our faith. Nobody likes trials and troubles but we do come out of them stronger if we trust in the Lord and hold on to him.

If we really have faith in God then we won't get mad and quit worshipping him when a problem comes our way. There may be times that we don't understand what is going on in life, but we need to trust in the Lord who does understand. I know I've heard of preachers who said that if you come to the Lord you would be blessed and basically won't have any problems. However, I've never read that in God's word. If it was easy to be a Christian then I'm sure that more people would turn to the Lord. Paul and other believers throughout history have endures many hurts and trials but they continued to look to the Lord. 'And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ,"

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... ELISHA TRAVELS THROUGH THE LAND, CONSTANTLY, TO HELP ALL THE PEOPLE....

The Shunammite's Son
IN HIS TRAVELS THROUGH THE LAND, AS THE LORD'S PROPHET, ELISHA OFTEN PASSES THROUGH SHUNEM, WHERE A WOMAN OF GREAT WEALTH TELLS HER SERVANTS TO FEED HIM, NOW....

... AND WHEN HE PASSES THROUGH SHUNEM, HE PAUSES AT THE HOME OF THIS KIND LADY....

... THERE IS ALWAYS FOOD SET OUT FOR HIM AT THE HOME OF THIS KIND WOMAN....

AFTER MANY SUCH OCCASIONS, THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN FINALLY REALIZES WHO, AND WHAT, ELISHA IS....

BEHOLD NOW, HUSBAND, I PERCEIVE THAT THIS IS AN HOLY MAN OF GOD WHICH PASSETH BY US CONSTANTLY... LET US MAKE A LITTLE ROOM, I PRAY THEE ON THE WALL, WITH A BED, AND A TABLE, AND A STOOL, AND CANDLESTICK, WHERE HE MAY REST FROM HIS JOURNEY WHEN HE COMETH TO US!

... SHE SPEAKS TO HER HUSBAND WHO, BEING AN OLDER MAN, CAN WITHOLD NOTHING FROM HIS YOUNG WIFE WHICH MIGHT PLEASE HER, SO....

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