

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Faith is the only thing I know that is stronger than fear. —Joyce Meyer



One night, a certain house caught fire and a young boy, 7, was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, “Jump, Jason, jump! I’ll catch you.” He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All Jason could see, however, was flame, smoke and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof.

His father kept yelling: “Jump! I will catch you.”

But the boy screamed, “I can’t see you.”

His dad shouted back, “But I can see *you*! That’s all that matters. Now jump!”

This is the nature of faith: jumping, moving, leaving, going, daring — when God says to jump, move, leave, go or dare.

The reading from Hebrews 11 is known as the “Faith Chapter of the Bible.” In this text, we learn that the heroes of the faith all abandoned any security they had even when they couldn’t see the way ahead. They were confident that God could see them.

The heroes of this chapter (Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses and others) were all quietly minding their own business when God poked them in the ribs, and said, “Hey, let’s go. Let’s do something different. Let’s mix it up.”

Abraham says, “Okay.” Then, “Where am I going?”

Notice that Faith answers “Yes,” and *then* asks, “What?” or “Where to?”

God says, “Well, don’t worry, but I will let you know along the way.”

Most of these heroes had plenty of reasons to stay put: a mortgage, a family, aged parents, a thriving ranching business and so on.

Jesus once called some people to follow him, but they said that although they would like to — someday — Jesus was calling at an inopportune time.

Faith gets in the way like that. Being called to live by faith and walk in faith can be inconvenient sometimes for sure.

What will our answer be? “Yes, Lord!”? Or, “Yes, but not right now”?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, I don’t know where you might lead, but help me to have ears to hear your call, and a willing spirit to follow. Amen.