



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

17 – 23 May, 2020

Stand Firm in the Faith

'Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong'

1 Corinthians 16:13

Faith

- † ***'Have faith in God' Jesus Christ in Mk 11:22b***
- † ***'your faith has made you well' Mt 9:22b***
- † ***'According to your faith let it be to you' Mt 9:29b***
- † **Let us ask the Lord as the apostles did: *'Increase our faith' Lk 17:5***

Strategy #1: Reading the Bible

- † **Reading the Bible daily nourishes our faith since *'faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God' Rom 10:17***
- † **Charles Malik says, *'It is not important that we talk about the Bible, but that the Bible talks to us about itself'***

Strategy #2: Faith and actions

- † **What if I have faith but have no time for actions? What if through my faith I wish good for others and ask God to help them, without myself bothering to do the work?**
- † ***'If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead' Js 2:15-17***
- † **In the parable of the Good Samaritan, **(Lk 10:25-37)**, the priest and Levite passing by had their excuses for not getting involved**
 - **they were either coming from or going to serve in the Temple**
 - **the man was bleeding and therefore he was unclean and so would they become if they touch him (Lev 15:2-13). This would forbid them from serving in the Temple**

- † The Samaritan had as valid an excuse as the priest and the Levite, so as not to help the wounded man, for the Jews and the Samaritans despised each other (*Jn 4:9, 20*)

Strategy #3: 'Faith working through love' (Gal 5:6b)

- † Faith and actions that are not driven by love are to no avail
- † *'without love the works of virtue are not praiseworthy or profitable to the man who practices them, and the same is true of love without works. Saint Paul makes this fully clear with reference to works when he writes to the Corinthians, 'If I do this and that, but have no love, it profits me nothing' (Cor 13:1-3) Saint Gregory Palamas*
- † *'And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him' 1 Jn 4:16*

Strategy #4: Do all things perfectly for God's glory

- † *'There are 'ordinary duties' and 'perfect duties' Saint Ambrose of Milan*
- † The Samaritan was not satisfied with ordinary duties when he poured wine on the wounds of the Jewish man which served as an antiseptic due to the alcohol in the wine
- † He did his duties perfectly by further
 - pouring oil on the wounds serving as an ointment to prevent infection
 - putting the man on his own donkey and taking him to the inn to take care of him the more
 - asking the innkeeper to take care of him and paying him all that is required
 - returning to check on him

Strategy #5: Make plans but do not let them be your master

- † Why do we follow the work of our hands, be it a plan or other, blindly, trusting that they are the best for us?
- † The Samaritan was not wandering on the road not knowing what to do. He was going to a goal he had planned for. The love in his heart gave up the plan, or postponed it, whereas the Levite and the priest overlooked their wounded brother so as not to ruin their plans

- † Christ Himself asked the will of the Father to be done and not His own. *'Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done'* Lk 22:42
- † The rich fool lost his plan overnight (Lk 12:16-21)
- † *'Let Him therefore stand in your midst, that the heavens which declare the glory of God, may be opened to you, that you may do His will, and work His works. He who sees Jesus, to him are the heavens opened as they were opened to Stephen, when he said: 'Behold I see the heavens opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God' Saint Ambrose*

Strategy #6: Keep your eyes on Christ

- † By faith we understand (Heb 11; Lk 1:26-38)
- † Through faith, Mary trusted God and said, *'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word'* Lk 1:38
- † Do not fall into the temptation of philosophizing things (Col 2:8)
- † *'It is easier to measure the entire sea with a tiny cup than to grasp God's ineffable greatness with the human mind' Saint Basil the Great*
- † The Lord asked great things of the apostles. They trusted, obeyed and executed. They lived what C S Lewis said, *'I know now, Lord, why you utter no answer. You are Yourself the answer. Before Your face questions die away. What other answer would suffice?'*

Bibliography

1. Lewis, C.S. *Till We Have Faces*. S.1. Williams Collins, 2020
2. *The Sacred Writings of Saint Ambrose*. Altenmünster Jazzybee Verlag, 2012
3. Malik, Charles. *دار المشرق به كان كل شيء*, 2013
4. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself' Matthew 22:39

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

✝ Christ is my All in all

My reaction

✝ Am I putting my faith into action?

✝ Are all my actions done with love?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, the region, and the whole world

During this coming week, we will lift the Armenian Catholic Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الذي في السموات،
ليَتَقَدَّسَ اسْمُكَ، لِيَأْتِ
مَلَكُوتُكَ، لِيَتَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ، كما
في السموات، كذلك على
الأرض، أَعْطِنَا خَبْرَنَا
كفافت يومنا، واغْفِرْ لنا
ذنوبنا وخطايانا كما نحن
نعفّر
لمن أخطأ وأسأء علينا
ولا تُدْخِلْنَا في التجارب
لكن نَجِّنَا من الشرير
أمين

قانون الايمان

نؤمن بإله واحد، أب ضابط الكل، خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يُرى وما لا يُرى، وربِّ واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد، المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور، إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق، مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر، الذي به كان كل شيء، الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا، نُزِّلَ من السماء، وتجسّد بالروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء، وصار إنساناً، وصُلِبَ عَنَّا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي، وتألّم ومات وقُبر، وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب، وصعد إلى السماء، وجلس عن يمين الأب، وسيأتي أيضاً بمجد عظيم، ليدين الأحياء والأموات، الذي لا فناء لمملكته، وبالروح القدس، الربّ المحيي، المُنبِّئ من الأب والإبن، الذي هو مع الأب والإبن، يُسجّد له ويُمجّد، الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل، وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدّسة، رسولية، ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا، ومنتظر قيامة الأموات والحياة في الدهر الآتي. أمين