



Searching For Christmas - Faith

Tonight there is a lot of reading, take time to read and listen to each of these parts of the Christmas story and reflect:

Read: Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-12

Imagine yourself in these roles:

- Mary as an unwed teenager being told she would be pregnant with God's son.
- Joseph, as a man who finds out his fiancé, is pregnant with someone else's child.
- The wise men being sent on a 500 mile journey with no destination, to celebrate the birth of a king that was not the son of the sitting king, a very dangerous situation.

What would your initial reaction be to the situation?

None of these journeys would be easy or even safe, why do you think they held on when their faith was tested?

In Hebrews 11:16 we read: "*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him*". What makes faith so impressive to God?

Read: Ephesians 2:8-9 TPT

7 Throughout the coming ages we will be the visible display of the infinite riches of his grace and kindness, which was showered upon us in Jesus Christ. 8 For by grace you have been saved by faith. Nothing you did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the love gift from God that brought us to Christ! 9 So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving.

Have you ever thought of faith as a gift? Why do you think Paul is so intentional in pointing this out?

How has faith seemed like a gift for you?

What does it feel like to take a step of faith?

Does faith ever feel like work? Why or why not?

Do moments when we struggle with faith diminish the quality of our faith?

Jesus struggled with faith on the Mount of Olives. (Luke 22:39-44) John the Baptist struggled with faith that Jesus was the Messiah (Luke 7:18-23). Paul struggled with faith in everyday situations (Romans 7:14-25). If these guys struggled, then we are in pretty good company when we struggle.

How do you deal with the moments where you struggle with faith?

What has been your go to Bible verse lately in moments like these?

Where do you need to grow in faith? How can we pray that God helps you in this area?