

St. Mary & St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church
11308 Yonge St, Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1K9

Daily Meditations • June 16, 2020

THE ROCK

THE LORD IS MY ROCK.
- PSALM 18:2

Daily Meditation

Reflection on (Hebrews 11: 24-27)

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not





fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

This chapter focuses on faith, which is defined in the beginning of the chapter as “substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). There is evidence that satisfies the senses which absorb information from the physical world, and then there is faith which substantiates those things which are invisible to the senses. Faith can be a perfect idea in our minds, but its manifestation in the world (i.e., our actions) may not match with this idea. How can we gauge the strength of our faith? C.S. Lewis says “it is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong and sound as long as you are merely using it to cord a box. But suppose you had to hang by that rope over a precipice.

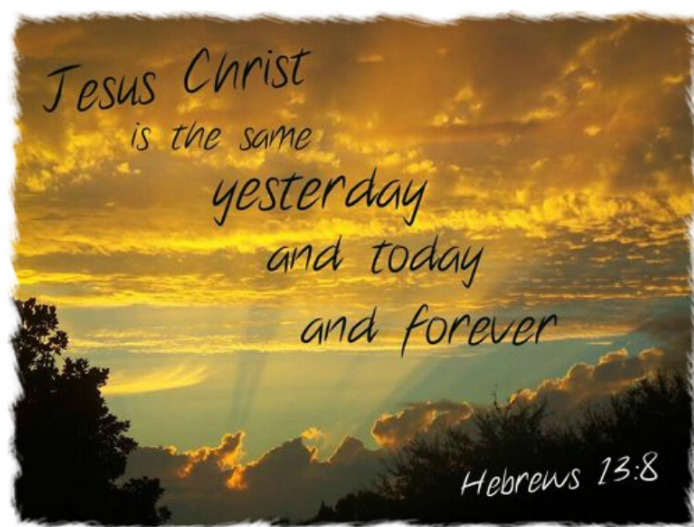




Wouldn't you then first discover how much you really trusted it?"

The rope can be regarded as our faith, and so it follows that the measurement of our faith is how we act in the face of hardships that arise in our life which cause us to suffer. And it is through integrating this suffering in our lives that we affirm and improve our faith in order to make the invisible as apparent and tangible as the visible. St. Paul also mentions in Romans 5:3-5 that we should "glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Faith then, continually generates a more resilient soul over time through its character development.

At the same time, God maintains His justice for all people and for all time (e.g., "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)).





It is made clear that the example of Moses is regarded as reproducible in our lives and not an unfair, unreachable ideal. St. Paul follows by saying, "And all these (e.g., Moses), having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us." (Hebrews 11: 39-40)

We should not feel a sense of restlessness after we display our faith, waiting for our immediate crowning. In fact, Moses, through his suffering which sharpened his faith, gained his victory many years ago during his life but remains uncrowned because he waits for our crowning. Like a careful father who waits for all his children to sit at the dinner table before eating, Christ also carefully treats us all as one body, rewarding our faith in unison. The potentially long gap between acting on our faith and the crowning that follows can create in us a sense of uneasiness, because how else would we know that we are on the right path than by being rewarded immediately for positive behaviours? This uneasiness is justified because we are humans





limited by time. However, it is also a chance for us to soften up and open our hearts to God; to continually listen to His commandments; to set our conduct in accordance with His will.



Connect with us:



smsj.ca/the-rock/



@TheRockatSMSJ

