

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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CARROTS

Jerry Dailey

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1, KJV).

The writer of Hebrews tells us not only what faith is but also what faith does. It provides expectation to the things hoped for and gives substance to things unseen. It is the bed-rock of our existence as Christians. It is the basis from which our thoughts occur and consequently prompt our actions.

The thing that comes immediately to mind is that faith provides us with the peace of God that passeth all understanding (Phil. 4:7). This is the part of faith that allows us to do “Hard Things.” The entire eleventh chapter of Hebrews is a list of people that did hard things in the face of incredible consequences. The Apostle Paul described the process this way in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, “For our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal but the things which are not seen are eternal.” Paul called the present persecution “Light Affliction” compared to eternity’s reward. Christians can do the hard things because no matter what the consequences may be, they pale into insignificance compared to the glory of eternity.

Jesus said that if our faith was as great as a mustard seed, our faith would enable us to move mountains. (Matt. 17:20). I have, like many others, wondered about this passage for a long time. Let me suggest to you a possible explanation.

A number of folks have described life’s journey or as some would put it, “Our Christian Walk” is a road filled with bumps and obstructions. I suggest that the

road being filled with bumps is an understatement. I think a course filled with mountains is probably an apt description.

There are some real live mountains that must be moved without us being moved by them. I think that is what the Apostle Paul was describing about the dangers facing him as he returned to Jerusalem and indicating that what ever befell him they would not “Move” him. (Acts 20:22-24).

The mountains that we face are man and varied. There are mountains of fear, betrayal, bereavement, financial, persecution, and a myriad of others, you can supply your own mountains to the list. These mountains must be moved lest they move us.

Suffer me to present an example of the principle that I am struggling to describe.

Gilbert and Hazel Coull migrated to the Akron area after World War II. They raised three children while going about quietly moving the mountains that came their way which were probably more numerous than their share.

They had been married a long time when by reason of years Hazel’s health began to fail. She suffered a debilitating stroke which seemingly precipitated a

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downward spiral of health issues. She was able to move this mountain and move forward but there would be more to follow. She bravely and quietly suffered each indignity that medical science could visit upon her in an effort to prolong her life. When, finally, there was nothing more that could be done she was admitted to the Palliative Care unit of City Hospital. After a few days the hospital staff advised us that her departure was at hand and we should be prepared.

On the day that Hazel died I went to Lakemore and asked Gilbert if he wanted to go to the hospital with Ruth Ann and me. He said, “No, we said our goodbyes yesterday and I’ll just wait here.” Hazel passed away that afternoon and after a time it was decided that Ruth Ann and I would go to Laremore and tell Gilbert of her passing.

When we arrived he was in his garden sitting on some kind of up-turned container and just staring at the ground. When we approached him he asked, with a catch in his voice, “She’s gone, isn’t she?” We replied that she was and Ruth Ann asked him if he wanted us to stay with him. He didn’t answer right away but just stared off into the distance with a faraway look in his eyes. It was like he was looking at a horizon that we couldn’t see. After a short time he turned to us and with a very calm voice said, “No, you go on home, I’ll be alright, I’ll just finish planting these carrots.”

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



1. Having truth decay? Brush up on your Bible
2. Worry is the dark room in which “negatives” are developed
3. To be almost saved, is to be totally lost
4. Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it
5. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity

Note of Appreciation . . .

1. To all those who help in the cleaning of the building and those doing all the normal things that need to be done around the building, those preparing the Lord’s Supper, and those who lead the congregation in public worship; and to those who encourage and edifying the congregation with your presence at each assembly, when it is possible for you to attend, thank you!
2. To those men who have been attending the men’s training classes in spite of the poor weather; thank you! We have had very good attendance and it hasn’t gone unnoticed. Remember, we have three remaining and Jeff will be teaching those.