

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"In Faith" 8/16/23

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Psalm 145:8)

Even as the sea rises and the fires burn. Even as our taxes rise and the evil prosper. Even as prices rise and wages don't. Even as the number of cases rise and death creeps in. Even after a month of temperatures rising over a 100. Even as the fire destroys your town. Even as the flood waters rise taking out your home, we can hold on to our faith in God, for in spite of it all and rising to the occasion, "The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

As CS Lewis says, "Faith is the art of holding on to things in spite of your changing moods and circumstances." Faith in God is at times a strong anchor and at times it flutters like a feather in the wind. When we can't find faith, we want to know how we can conjure up some. We can't. Faith is a gift. Another of the many gifts, freely given to us by a loving God. Like a waiter with water, always refilling our glasses, God has an endless supply of faith from which He keeps refilling our hearts.

At times we doubt, we can't accept, we question, we wonder. Life is difficult. There are unexpected events which use up all of our faith, "how can I continue, now," we wonder. Then God is there to fill us up again.

God meets us in our difficulties, when we don't feel like we have any faith left. Or when we cry out "I do have faith! Or at least I did. I seem to have misplaced it. Can I get some more?" (Mark 9:24) And there is God with more.

God comes to show His character to us in our own private worsts. He is here for us, gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Here we find we do have enough faith to face our enemy, our difficult decisions, our losses, our loneliness, our challenges, our questions, our doubts. Here we find peace. Here in the dark God meets us with compassion and gifts us with faith to face the dark and to remind us - the sun'll come up tomorrow.

Even as the sea rises and the fires burn. Even when life throws us the worst it can, "The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

Please pray with me:

Heavenly Father, help our unbelief. We come to You and ask for faith to face the day, the pain as well as the joy it holds. Thank You for giving to us the faith we need to continue. May our hope and faith reflect Your steadfast love and compassion to others.

Amen.