

Letter 362
Weapons And Tactics Part 2
The Doctrine of Faith
 2015-06-21

Dear Dan,

What can be said about angel Gabriella, the Lady from Heaven who offers the Gift of Faith from our Father in Heaven? Who can describe such a thing? What Wordsmith or Playwright can conjure enough color from their pen, or what Artist can coax enough words from their brush? Her Sword is named Faith.

Yet we have a “*more sure word of prophecy*”, and can rely on the Scripture for such Words, for it is written;

The Book of Hebrews chapter 11, verses 1 through 40.

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

For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

By faith we understand ...
By faith Abel offered ... a more excellent sacrifice ...
By faith Enoch was taken ...

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

By faith Noah, ... prepared an ark ...
By faith Abraham obeyed ...
By faith he dwelt in the land of promise...

*for he waited for the city which has foundations,
 whose builder and maker is God.*

By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, ...

These all died in faith, ...

*But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.
 Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God,
 for He has prepared a city for them.*

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, ...
By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau ...
By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph,

and worshiped, ...

By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions ...

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, ...

and they were not afraid of the king's command.

By faith Moses, ... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ...

By faith he forsook Egypt, ...

By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, ...

By faith they passed through the Red Sea ...

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down ...

By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish ...

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of

**Gideon and
Barak and
Samson and
Jephthah,**

also of
**David and
Samuel and
the prophets: who**

through faith

subdued kingdoms,
worked righteousness,
obtained promises,
stopped the mouths of lions,
quenched the violence of fire,
escaped the edge of the sword,

out of weakness were made strong,
became valiant in battle,

turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

Still others had

trial of
mockings and **scourgings**, yes, and of
chains and **imprisonment**.

They were
stoned, they were
sawn in two, were
tempted, were
slain with the sword.

They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins,

being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy.

They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

*And all these, 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.

And it is also written;

The book of Hebrews, Chapter 12, verses 1 through 29.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

looking unto Jesus,
the author and finisher of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the

exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

*“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;
For whom the Lord loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives.”*

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”)

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God,

the heavenly Jerusalem,

*to an **innumerable** company of angels,
to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven,
to God the Judge of all,
to the spirits of just men made perfect,
to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and
to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.*

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him

who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made,

that the things which cannot be shaken may

*****remain*****.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus