

**Lenten Devotional Reflection**  
**28 March 2020 (Lent Day 28)**

**Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-16 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. <sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. <sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

## **Message**

During our spiritual journey, testing of faith happens in different stages of life and helps us deepen our obedience and trust in God. In facing different life challenges, we can acknowledge the importance of God's presence with us. By faith, we can overcome all internal worries, fear and anxiety and believe that everything is in control and guided by God from the past, now and forever.

Like Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." No matter how difficult and uncertain the future is, Noah and Abraham still trusted in God and put God first in everything they did. Noah built an ark to save his household. He could choose not to believe in God's warning about events yet unseen. However, Noah obeyed as he trusted in God more than himself. Abraham, commonly known as the Father of Faith, was called by God to leave his familiar place and lead his family to live in an unknown land. This reveals that by faith in God we can expand our spiritual horizons and be approved by God with courage, patience, perseverance and obedience granted by Him.

Verse 4 of the hymn "Lead Us, O Father, In The Paths Of Peace" encourages us:

"Lead us, O Father, to Thy heav'nly rest,  
However rough and steep the pathway be,  
Through joy or sorrow, as Thou deemest best,  
Until our lives are perfected in Thee."

Let us move forward with faith and hope to enter the heavenly home.

## **Reflection**

1. How did you experience the testing of faith in different stages of life? How can the examples of Noah and Abraham help you face the severe situation of the current epidemic?
2. If God grants you a new spiritual characteristic to help you face the future ahead, which characteristic would you like? Why?

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