

DAY 3 FAITH? IT TAKES A LOT!

*"When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you; and through the rivers,
they shall not overwhelm you;
For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."*

—Isaiah 43:2, 3

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

—Hebrews 11:1

It takes a lot to do what we do—live the "now and not yet" life! It's not bad to accept by faith that Jesus "was crucified, dead and buried, the third day he rose from the dead." That's the "now" faith.

It's another thing to accept by faith the "not yet" life for which we are called to be prepared. This life is hard! Where is God? This world has deep conflicts! Where is God? This life also has glaring inequities for people around the world! Where is God? And will there ever be a "not yet"?

Where is God? God has shared every heartbreak, every conflict and every inequity of life. No difficulty of life exists that God doesn't endure with us. The cross of Jesus Christ assures us of that.

Can we have faith that a "not yet" is coming and it will close the strife of our lives? Absolutely. And the God who stands with us today—in every conflict of life—will one day return in Jesus Christ to close this life and usher us into fellowship free of strife.

Sure it takes a lot to do what you and I do—living the "now and not yet" by faith. Nevertheless you can live by faith today and through this Advent season. God has always—always—walked through the most difficult moments of your life with you.

Trust God to prepare you for the worst of the day today and always. Your faith can grow this season.

Going Deeper

Recall people whose faith you respect. Be assured that God has seen them through difficult times.

Almighty God, I express faith in your provision, preparing me for the worst and best of life, and your promise that Christ will one day return to close this life and bring us into full fellowship with you. In the name of Christ. Amen.