

RETURNING DEVOTIONAL

VINEYARD ANAHEIM



RETURNING TO A LIFE OF FAITH

by Penny Fulton

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see...And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must believe that He is and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” Heb. 11:1, 6

Jesus is new every day. Every time we watch for Him, each time we cry out to Him in our need or in our great thankfulness, He gives us a glimpse of such eternal blessing, immeasurable love, and mercy way beyond our own expectations or imagination. He causes Himself to be found by us. The depth of love, of His intrinsic care shows itself every time we seek Him.

Therefore, I find myself returning to faith over and over again. Jesus Christ is relentless in His patience and His love for us. To seek His face is an act of faith that we continually return to, because we are declaring to our own hearts that He is, and that He rewards us who seek Him, as Hebrews 11:6 declares.

Luke tells us about a widow who was relentless before an unjust judge, pleading for justice. She wouldn't give up, but kept after the judge with her requests, until he finally wore down. Jesus uses this story as an illustration not only of prayer but also of faith; for He says at the end, "...However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" So according to this illustration, faith is demonstrated when we won't give up but keep asking God for those things the Holy Spirit has put on our hearts and not give up.

Peter says that we need to supplement our faith with similar qualities so we could experience the life Jesus promised us. In essence, faith is a foundation/platform upon which you build a quality life (I Peter 1:3-11). It is a lifelong pursuit to which you return again and again that gives you an ever increasing life of godliness. It is a way to keep faith alive because this life tries to suck life from you continually.

Purposeful restoration of faith assures you that God is at work in you. You are not alone in this.