

What Is Faith?

So I went out at night by the Valley Gate in the direction of the Dragon's Well and on to the Refuse Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were consumed by fire.

Nehemiah 2:13 (NASB)

Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach."

Nehemiah 2:17 (NASB)

Observation

Helen Keller said, "The only thing worse than being blind is to have sight and no vision." Faith gives us the ability to visualize the thing God has put on our hearts actually happening. Faith is seeing what cannot be seen without faith. Nehemiah understood this principle. He has a clear knowledge of the current state of the walls, but he also saw something

else. He could see what they would be like at completion. Faith perceives as reality those things that are not revealed to the natural senses. His response to what he saw in his spirit was to arise and build the walls.

Faith is not passive. It will require work on your behalf. The Bible tells us that faith without works is dead. The thing you see and believe God for is going to require effort on your part. It may require a change in lifestyle and sacrifice. God does not always grant us vision to see the end result completely, but provides "a lamp unto our feet". Can you see yourself getting a promotion or starting a new business? Can you see yourself being able to meet your commitment to the Open: Next Chapter journey? As you begin to see things through God's eyes, it will build your faith and give you the energy to move forward. Get a vision of God doing His work through you. Trust His lead. Even though we only have an idea of the future, He has a very real and clear picture of it. Get to work and act on your faith.

Application

Ask yourself, "Can I see God doing the impossible through me?" Ask God to give you eyes to see what He wants to do through you. You should pray, "God, help me to see myself as you see me." God will begin to show you all that you can become and all that He wants to do in and through you.