

## STORIES ABOUT FAITH

By John F. Hall

Charles Clevenger wrote a poem called, “A Test of Faith.” These are his words: “Sometimes God examines our faith, though He knows our every whim. And though we may be unworthy, our faults and failings — we trust to Him. When black clouds of gloom surround me, and follow wherever I go, it is then I look toward Heaven... where God hears my prayers — I know. Perhaps God sends us tribulations to test the faith we profess. To endure the trials and travail of life, we must be



steadfast in the faith we confess. The months of Winter can be long and cold, when clouds of gray hang on for days. Remember, though, to count your blessings... keep the faith — and give God the praise. Life’s highs and lows can be testing; to keep the faith, we must be strong. God, in His goodness, will see us through; we are His children...to Him we belong.”

This is my first poem about faith. I used some concepts by Raymond Woodward. I call my poem, “Soldier of Christ.” These are my words: “I became a soldier of Jesus Christ, on my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. Jesus Christ is my Commanding Officer. The Holy Bible is my code of conduct. Faith, prayer, and Christ’s Words are my weapons of warfare. I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, tried by adversity, trained by experience, and tested by fire. I am a volunteer in this army, and I am enlisted for eternity. I will not sell out, get out, be taken out, or be pushed out. I am faithful. I am capable, dependable and reliable. If my God needs me, I am there. He can use me, because I am there at His service. I am a soldier of Christ. I am saluting my King, obeying His orders, praising His name and building His Kingdom. I cannot discourage enough to turn me aside. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit. When Jesus called me into this army, I had nothing. If I end up with nothing, I will still come out even. My God will supply all my needs. I am more than a warrior. I will always succeed. I can do all things through Christ. Devils cannot defeat me. People cannot disillusion me. Weather cannot weary me. Sickness cannot stop me. Battles cannot beat me. Money cannot buy me. Even death cannot destroy me. For when my Commanding Officer calls me from this battlefield, I shall continue to worship Him forever. I am a soldier of Christ, marching heaven bound.”

M. Elaine Fowser wrote the poem, “Faith.” These are her words: “Without faith, how can one live a life free of doubt and worry? How can I slow down my race to enjoy the moment and stop the hurry? It takes faith to let go and let God be in charge when the whole world seems off keel. Believe, God knows what’s best for us; His will is often not what we feel. Faith is always looking up — God’s love and beauty there to see. In seeing, how can we not have faith, knowing He cares for you and me?”

Linda Grazulis wrote the poem, “Tie a Knot of Faith.” These are her words: “Life can often be quite difficult when troubles like eagles soar, making our spirit plummet with defeat as we face sorrow, heartache, and more... Where can we seek peace and refuge from the twirling tornadoes of trouble, causing us such distress and deep despair as they multiply and double? It’s not an easy we

trod on God's green earth below, but with Jesus' presence by our side — ultimately in hope and faith we'll grow. Tie a knot and in faith hold on — often deliverance is just around the bend. God has a way with the miraculous, so don't doubt the blessings that He's able to send. Cling to God with humble, daily prayers and trust in His Holy Words so true. Solutions to your insurmountable problems you'll see descending from above those skies of stormy blue. Dare to tie a knot of faith and preserve with all your might, for it may be tomorrow solutions you'll as you dare to believe by faith, not sight."

Jeremy Camp wrote the song, "Walk By Faith." These are some of his lyrics: "Would I believe You when You would say, Your hand will guide my every way? Will I receive the Words You say, every moment of every day? Well, I will walk by faith even when I cannot see. Well, because this broken road, prepares Your Will for me. Help me end my endless fears, You've been so faithful for all my years. With one breath You make me new. Your grace covers all I do..."

I am fighting for my every breath, and my worn out heart is doing its best. Ruthmarie Brooks Silver wrote the poem, "Healing Faith." These are her words: "Relax and let your mind and body ever peaceful be. Slowly breathe and then release that breath comfortably. Let go all stress and worry, completely and in depth. Claim your health and wholeness, only love cares. Picture yourself walking with One Who's always there. No words need be spoken; only warmth and loving share. Quiet each cell's power, picture radiancy, sustain the brilliance in mind's beam, rest now peacefully.

I'll end this story with a poem by Mary B. Conn called, "Faith, Our Poultice." These are her words: "God has not forgotten you — His loving care is there. Love that spreads the whole world over, for everyone to share. We aren't meant to understand why pain and sickness come. Faith will help us bear all trials until our battle's won. God does work His miracles beyond our fondest dreams. He does mend and cure all ills when on Him we lean. Put your hand in Him, dear friend, and let Him lead the way. Always know He's there with you, when faithfully you pray. You are God's most precious child, a soul whom He does love. Never will He forsake you, as He watches from above."

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