



The God Who Reveals – Faithfulness Will be Rewarded

Gabriel

“Gabriel”

Just the sound of my King’s voice stirred my heart. I left my post at the entryway and stepped into the throne room. To my left was the desk on which sat the Book of Life. Ahead of me was the throne of Almighty God. I entered the circle of unceasing Light, folded my wings before me to cover my face, and knelt before Him. “Yes, my Lord?”

“You have served the kingdom well. You are a noble messenger. Never have you flinched in duty. Never have you flagged in zeal.” I bowed my head, basking in the words. “Whatever You ask, I’ll do a thousand times over, my King,” I promised.

“Of that, I have no doubt, dear messenger.” His voice assumed a solemnity I’d never heard Him use. “But your greatest work lies ahead of you. Your next assignment is to carry a gift to Earth. Behold.” I lifted my eyes to see a necklace – a clear vial on a golden chain – dangling from His extended hand. My Father spoke earnestly, “Though empty, this vial will soon contain My greatest gift.” Handing me the necklace, He explained, “This vial will contain the essence of Myself; a Seed to be placed in the womb of a young girl. Her name is Mary. She lives among My chosen people. The fruit of the Seed is the Son of God. Take it to her.”

“But how will I know her?” I asked. “Don’t worry. You will.” I could not comprehend God’s plan, but my understanding was not essential. My obedience was. I lowered my head, and He draped the chain around my neck. Amazingly, the vial was no longer empty. It glowed with Light.

“Jesus. Tell her to call My Son, Jesus.”

Source: “An Angel’s Story” by Max Lucado

While this is just a fictional perspective of an angel, it does bear truth to the nature of God. He uses those who are faithful to Him to accomplish mighty things and how great are the rewards. Can you imagine God saying to you one day: “You have served the kingdom well. You are a noble messenger. Never have you flinched in duty. Never have you flagged in zeal.”

Let’s take a closer look at faith through the lives of some Old Testament heroes.

Scripture

Read Hebrews 11

Discovery Questions

1. Dictionary.com defines FAITH as: *confidence or trust in a person or thing OR belief that is not based on proof*. How does verse 1 describe faith?
2. Faith involves believing in God’s character (who He is) and in His promises (what He says He will do). With this in mind, re-read verse 6. What does this mean to you?
3. The Old Testament heroes in this text listened to God and responded with obedience. Yet, their actions aren’t what stand out the most. Skim over the text. What phrase is repeated throughout? Why is this of importance?
4. The Bible tells us that, as Christians, we will experience pain and suffering. Our obedience to God may cause ridicule and rejection. Take some time to reflect on the stories of Noah, Abraham, Moses and their faith. Can you recall a time in your life in which you were completely dependent on your faith in God? Please describe.
5. How can you better prepare yourself to respond to God’s word?

Journaling

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

Prayer: Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- Dear Lord, when You speak, give me ears to listen and a heart to respond.
- Father, thank you for Your gift of Jesus and eternal life. I know this reward is matchless.
- Dear Jesus, when life becomes difficult, help me to demonstrate true faith and to trust in You. At times when your plan is being slowly revealed to me, allow me to stand firm in my faith.
- God, thank you for Your Word. Thank you for Old Testament heroes who define and illustrate true faith. Thank you for the freedom we have in this country to worship, follow and praise You.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6