

March 28, 2010
Grove Presbyterian Church
Palm Sunday

Is it all based on faith?

So asks a young woman.

What isn't?

Faith. It comes in two aspects: the shell and the substance. The outer shell is the aspect of beliefs. More the intellectual and orderly acceptance of doctrines and principles.

Deeper, far richer (the reason for the shell), is faith that is a living trust, a reliance upon – the ardor and passion inside that motivates you day by day and upon which you build your life, your personality, day by day.

For few really live in the present We either dwell in the past with all its pain and regret or cherished memories, or we keep trying to figure out the future, often fretting and fearing what might be ("and they were afraid"), or equally often smothering this fear by losing ourselves in illusions and algorithmic expectations. I wish, I wish, I wish...

The kind of sappy hope born of an anxious optimism, a desperate longing. I wish, I wish, I wish...

Like Dorothy in Oz: if we only believe enough, and click our heels, we can go home...

Or like Tinker Bell: if we believe in fairies and clap loud enough, Tink will get well...

How different is the hard work and demanding passion of faith from mere wishful thinking.

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Is it all based on faith?

What isn't?

Is not letting your child go to her first slumber party an act of faith?

Is not climbing up a ladder an act of faith?

When we marry, is it not an act of faith?

When we bury?

When we bring babies into this world?

Is not these young men coming forth to say I will love Christ an act of faith? That these young men will become men of integrity, respectable and respecting.

But we carry on. Each day an act of faith. And the more we try, the more we test that ladder, the more we trust the next time. Faith, like God, is a verb. One never really has faith, as if it is some commodity to possess. You faith...

Just as you love. Just as you hope. So you faith.

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We know life can be so hard. Are we going to make it?

Who is faithless?

Those who live so afraid.

Who is faithless?

Those who lack the conviction that God is good and that they are loved.

Who is faithful?

Those who step out, step up, carry on upon this premise, trusting that God is good, you are loved.