What is Faith?

What Difference Does Faith Make to Your Financial Life?

by Ernest O'Neill Program 65

What way do you live in regard to your financial life if you actually do believe that there is a God? And that He is your Father, and that He is the Father of Jesus of Nazareth, and that He has a kind and tender heart like Jesus?

Well, it changes utterly the way you act towards your finances. As we've shared, you certainly begin to believe that it is God who put you here on earth-- put you here to do a certain job for Him that nobody else can do-- and He will supply the money and the material needs that you have to perform that task. That relaxes you tremendously. No longer do you see your money and your needs tied to your employer or to your boss. No longer do you come under that slavish desire to please them so that you in fact will have enough money to get you through life. But you start to be free about your relationship to them because you realize, "No! It's in my God's hands. it's in my Father's hands. He's the one that put me here. The boss didn't make me! The company didn't make me. It's God the Creator that made me. He knows I'm here, and He has promised He will supply every need of mine from His riches in glory in Christ Jesus, and I believe that. I believe that." So you start to relax in relationship to your job and in relationship to your associates.

Some of you may say, "Yes, but sometimes, I mean, His needs... His idea of my needs are different from mine!" Yes! undoubtedly they are. But not, you remember, as we said before, not because He is miserly, not because His idea is to get you to exist on as

little as you possibly can exist on-- a glass of water every day and a piece of bread.

That's not the way He has shown Himself in the world as a whole. In the world as a whole, He has shown Himself tremendously generous, hasn't He? I mean there's a great extravagance in the profusion of daffodils and roses-- great extravagance in the creation of colors way under the ocean where nobody could possibly see them. There is great extravagance and generosity in God.

There is a great provision of supplies in this world which actually would be sufficient to supply all of us if we would stop being selfish and stop trying to get a corner on the market for ourselves. God Himself has shown Himself very generous and extravagant in His love, even in connection with His Son Jesus. He has given generously of His very own heart, for you.

He certainly may differ in His judgement of your needs, but not in the sense that you think. You're always thinking the worst of Him You're always thinking, "He must be horrible. He must be a grimy old man who is miserly." No. I mean, look at the sunshine up there. Isn't it bright and happy? Look at the smiles on children's faces. Aren't they bright and joyous? Look at laughter and listen to it. Isn't it great? God has made all the comedians, you know. He's made all the wonderful things. It's us that have brought all the darkness into the world with our rebellion and selfishness. No, God differs perhaps about what are your needs, your financial needs, but not from the point of view of being miserly, or counting the pennies, but from the point of view of what He is trying to do in your life.

There's no doubt He has sent you here to do something for Him in bringing the world into order that nobody else can do, but He's also sent you here to express part of His own character in a way

that nobody else can express it. So, He's always working to make you more like Himself. He's always working to bring you into a likeness to Himself. You can express something of His Son Jesus that nobody else can. Your life is kind of a frame-- a picture frame-- in which God is painting a picture of His Son Jesus, making Him so incarnate again in your life. So that is the greatest purpose that He has, and He works everything together to bring that about, to conform you to the image of His Son.

It's in that context that that famous verse is, you know, Romans 8.28. "All things work together for good to them that love God" or, "God works together for good in all things for them that love Him," because He's always working to make you more like Himself. So, it is true: He at times will see needs that are deeper than the needs that you see on the surface. On the surface you'll say, "What I need most is twenty dollars. What I need most is five hundred dollars. What I need most at this moment is ten thousand dollars. That I need! There's no question. Even God must be able to see I need that." No, while you have that attitude you won't get anything from God, because it's basically an attitude of, "I know what is my need, and He ought to know!" No, you're not the creature; He's the Creator. You're the child; He's the Father. He knows what you need.

Actually, He gives you what you need. That's another great peace that can come into your mind if you have faith in God. That's what He's giving you at that moment is what you need at that moment. What He's giving you at this moment is what you need at this moment. In other words, there's a real sense in which you can look up to God and say, "Lord, it isn't as much money as I thought I needed. It isn't as much car as I thought I needed, but it's what you've given me. Lord God, I know I'm not dealing with some impersonal fate here that I just have to say, "Que sera, sera whatever will be, will be! I'm dealing with a loving, dear Father who is giving me money and giving me

supply of my needs in a dynamic way. So, Father, I thank you that what you've given me at this moment is exactly what I need. I thank you for it."

Really, that is what faith is. It's thanking God that He has given you what you really need at this moment, and, it's accepting His judgements of your needs. Now, of course, that is necessary if you're to exercise faith at all. You have to accept that He is the God. He knows. He knows! He knows where your life is going. He knows what He wants to do with it. He knows!

One of the basic needs you have in beginning to live the way He meant you to live is to accept His judgement on issues, and stop substituting your own judgement. Accept that if He judged this is your need, then this is your need. Stop crying after all kinds of things that you haven't got and complaining about all kinds of things that you haven't got. If you haven't got them, it's because He judges it's better for you not to have them. But don't question His love, because He has supplied needs that are different to the ones your little finite mind is able to perceive. He has an infinite mind. `He loves you with all His heart. He wants the very best for you. He will give you exactly what you need.

Now, the one thing that is needed in your life to enable you to enjoy this beautiful situation is faith. Faith is, of course, not just belief on the basis of the reasonable evidence that God has presented to you over the years that He is faithful to you, but it is action based on that belief. In other words, if you're to live in the midst of reality it means acting on your faith. It means acting on the basis of your belief. That is what faith is-faith is action.

There was a man called George Mueller, who actually built orphanages in Britain for hundreds of poor children to live in as if they had real parents who loved them. He built these orphanages by simple faith. He asked no man for any money at

all, but He simply trusted God completely to supply this money and he had none himself. He did it by faith, which is action. He would often sit down at a table with children all around him, have the silverware set out, say grace, and still there was no food in the larder, but he would have absolute confidence that there would be food when it came time to eat. There'd be a knock at the door when he finished saying grace, and someone would come with a gift of food, or someone would turn up with food that they had been guided to supply to them. Now that's faith that is action, and often you will be expected to live in that kind of action that is faith-- showing that you do absolutely trust your Father, and there's good reason because "my God will supply every need of yours from His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." You can depend upon Him.