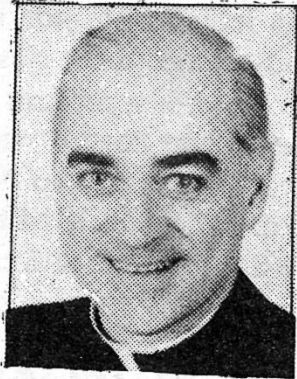


Learn from Mystics

How many times did the Lord say to His specially chosen apostles: Oh you of little faith? He knew they believed, but he was distressed because they did not have sufficient conviction.



Partial faith is like a bridge which is built half-way across a river. It's a good beginning, but it doesn't solve the problem of reaching the other shore. People with partial faith are quick to abandon the church when scandals occur. Paying too much attention to the tawdry practices of sinners, and too little to the glowing charity of the saints among us, they lose balance.

The church is filled with many of the walking wounded who fail to complete the bridge of faith. They are nominal Christians. Their faith does not serve them well in times of great stress.

A strong faith enables one to see the God of splendor and mercy in all circumstances. Those with strong faith are not easily shaken. Scandal does not perturb them. Mediocrity in themselves and others does not surprise them. They rise above their human weaknesses and hold fast to their confidence in God's love. At that point the bridge of faith is complete, and it becomes possible to trust the Lord in the way Jesus asked.

Faith is knowledge. It is knowing that

within you there is another life ready to sustain and refresh you. Learn from the mystics. They knew that each one has a resident physician within who brings healing, and a resident architect who helps us to build the bridge of faith. God's loving presence permeates and penetrates your soul. Knowing this brings healing and peace. The Holy Spirit acts within your soul enabling you to overcome fear, guilt and sorrow.

The fullness of faith also enables us to see the power of God residing in the church. Those with partial faith see the church as an irrelevant pompous institution. Those with a full faith see the church as a port in the storm of life. They cherish the Eucharist as the most precious gift God has bestowed on His people.

Faith is an antidote to spiritual blindness. We may be frustrated and depressed at times but faith opens us to trust God fully. Once you understand that you are never alone and never abandoned, your pain fear and discouragement begin to take on new meaning. Instead of making you feel isolated, your pain brings you closer to the sufferings of Christ. Abiding in His love, you will experience quiet joy, and the dark clouds will give way to sunshine.

Spend time with the Lover within. Believe with all your heart that one day all your tears will be wiped away. Believe that you are always enfolded in the light of God's Unchanging Love.