

Is Our Faith Leaking?

By Moshe Schwab

After we realize that God really does heal and we see Him at work, our faith can begin to go down when we don't see results. For me, faith has been a struggle to remain active and positive. Since I was in my 20s, I have actively prayed for healing, I have seen a number of healings, and have been healed many times myself. There is a tendency though to stop praying when things don't happen.

We could say that our faith begins to leak. We need to keep filling up our faith. Hope and faith are tied closely together. Isaiah 40:31 CJB says, "But those who hope in ADONAI will renew their strength, they will soar aloft as with eagles' wings; when they are running they won't grow weary, when they are walking they won't get tired."

Perhaps a leaky cardboard carton of milk could be a good example. I am always aware that if I see milk or cream under the carton that it may be leaking because of the mess it will make in the refrigerator. Anything that leaks in the refrigerator can be an awful mess.

In the same way we need to guard our faith and keep it from leaking. The tendency is to let our faith leak at times and that works against us. Sometimes we just stop praying. We wouldn't let the milk carton leak out and make a mess in our refrigerator. Neither should we allow leaky faith to keep us from doing what we should be doing.

We have a wonderful legacy in the Bible:

We see people taking risks – that helps us to overcome failure. (Abraham, the Tamidim).
Yeshua tells us to keep asking (Luke 18:1-8) – that keeps us tuned into God and focused on Him.

We are told that we can't heal anyone (Acts 3:12) – it is God that heals. So, we can stop trying to perform.

We are people with expectation because we trust in a loving God – so we have hope.

We can use a prayer model – that gives us wisdom and helps when we pray for others.

You may not see anything happen if you just pray for a few people, but if you keep praying you will see healings and miracles. John Wimber, a man who inspired a generation of people to pray for others said: 'It is really contagious. Once you begin to see God at work, you won't want to stop praying for people.'

I heard one person say that he began to pray for everything including someone's pet gerbil. I've prayed for many people and have seen many answers to prayer. It's really exciting to see God at work. It lifts our faith. My daughter back in 2007 had Leukemia. She had almost died the week before a friend and I prayed for her. We prayed for her on Monday; then, on Tuesday the hospital did their regular blood test and the cancer was gone. They sent her home on Thursday even though she could hardly walk! Faith is more than just believing or mental assent. Faith is action, so pray (see James 2:14).

The Greeks would hold relay races. Athletes would pass a lit torch to one another until the winner reached the finish line. – online, "How Olympic Torches Work" by Stephanie Watson

Perhaps, that is what we are doing. God ignites our torch and we carry our torch, but instead of passing it on, we ignite other's torches. The trick is to keep our torch lit – to keep it supplied with oil and to keep it burning hot. I think there was a parable about being ready and torches (see Matthew 25:1-13, the parable of the 10 virgins).

What puts out our torch:

Self focus – If I pray for this person I'll look foolish
 Sin – allowing sin into life is a form of unbelief
 Selfishness – We don't want to give
 Fear of failure – Feeling bad because nothing happened
 Jealousy – Looking at others spiritual success
 Disappointment – We all have disappointments
 Bitterness – Allowing past circumstances and hurts to keep us out of the “game”
 Worldly focus – just be like Yeshua not, “all you can be;” Don't you think Mother Theresa could have been a CEO, instead she did what God wanted her to do.

Isn't it enough:

That God set Israel free from Egypt to serve God.
 That we have been set free spiritually by believing on the Messiah.
 That we can experience God and His presence – see “Practicing the Presence of God” by Brother Lawrence
 That God answers prayers – maybe not all of them, but definitely some of them.

Be a participant

Acts 28 tells us to make disciples not just decisions for Yeshua. We pass on the fire of God to people. We don't belong to a book club. God is real and is able to do what He wants and that includes healing.

There is an exchange in everything in life. Economists say that there is a cost to everything. If we buy one thing we can't buy another. If we use our time for something, it is gone and used – so there is always a cost. Why not be willing to take the risk, the cost of seeing the power of God at work? If we don't, that opportunity is lost.

Yeshua paid the price so we could have a relationship with God

Yeshua gave himself for us. Our spiritual welfare cost the Messiah something.
 Because Yeshua paid for our spiritual freedom we should respond:

- 1 In intimacy and relationship with God; God wants us to pursue Him
- 2 By being dependent on God.
- 3 By being obedient to God

God tells us to pray.

Eph 6:18 (NKJV), “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

1 Thess 5:17 (NKJV), “Pray without ceasing.”

James 5:16 (NKJV) tells us to, “Pray for one another, that you may be healed.”