



27th SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME ***YEAR C – October 6, 2019***

As we listen to the words of the prophet Habbakuk, the words of St. Paul to Timothy and the words of St. Luke in the Gospel today, we are reminded about the importance of faith in God and perseverance in prayer especially in trying times.

Have you ever prayed for something you didn't get it? Did anyone suggest to you that your faith was not yet strong enough or that you did not persevere in your prayer?

As I mentioned a couple years ago, that happened to me when I was a young boy. I was born with cataracts on both eyes and because I believed in the power of prayer, I began to ask God to let me see, just like all the other kids could see. Nothing happened - and one of my teachers suggested that my faith was not yet strong enough and that I did not persevere in prayer as Jesus asks us to do. I believed that then, but it was not true. I have since learned that's not how prayer works.

My faith and my perseverance are not the cause of the kind of miracle I wanted from God. And incidentally, my pray has been answered in God's way and I can see just fine.

The actual cause of a miracle is God. If God chooses to act in a way that is different from the way I want him to act, it doesn't mean that something is wrong with my faith or my perseverance in prayer.

Remember the analogy of the sun and the windows that I have often used these past 31 years. The sun is the cause of light in the church, the windows are the condition that allow the sun to act inside the church. At midnight, it would be crazy to conclude that something is wrong with the windows because there is no sunlight in the church.

Just so, God is the cause of miracles, our faith is the condition that allows the miracle to happen. If God chooses not to act, it would be crazy to conclude that something is wrong with our faith,

God has his reasons for what he does and we do well to continue to trust him, even when he doesn't see things our way. That's where mature faith comes in. We continue to believe in God and let God be God. As St. Paul reminds us, "Here on earth, we walk by faith and not by sight."

So, when it comes to prayer, have faith in God and persevere in your prayer and above all, trust God. God knows what we need, especially in bad times. Dag Hammershald said back in the 1950's, "Cry, cry if you must but do not complain. The path has chosen you. And in the end, you will say. Thank You."

For a few moments in silence, reflect on your trust in God. Does your trust need a faith lift?

*Man says... Show me
and I'll trust you.*

*God says... Trust me
and I'll show you.*

Psalm 126:6