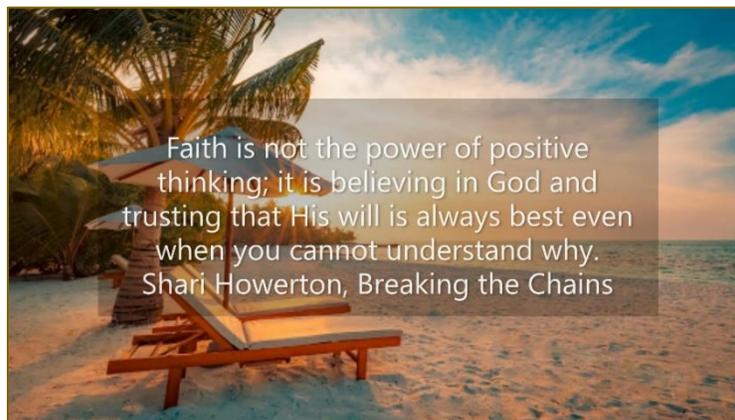


PMA and Faith

It is clear from the Gospels that the focus of faith is God and Jesus. For example, Jesus says, "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me." (John 14:1) We do not believe in faith. We do not believe in others. We do not believe in ourselves. We believe in God and Jesus. Why is this important? For me discussions of faith and the stories I read of people of faith both ancient and modern, have a similar feel as stories of positive mental attitude (PMA). When I read about people doing amazing feats in sports, business, or civic duties, I get this "rush" of PMA that makes me feel invincible. I want to drop down and do a hundred pushups. This usually passes before I drop down. There is inspiration in observing the achievements of others. It causes me to want to believe in myself. "I can do that!" PMA is the world's version of faith. For most godly traits there are human knockoffs. I think therefore some are put off with athletes who give credit to God and Jesus for their win. If the win was a result of God's intervention or strength, was there an unfair advantage in the competition? If God is on your team, how could anyone beat you? Of course, I hope this is not what they usually mean. Believing in God and Jesus must be much more than giving them credit for winning a basketball game. I guess we could say that it is primarily about salvation, a goal we have no ability to reach. My belief in God and Jesus is my recognizing that if I am going to be saved, they are going to have to do it. Beyond salvation in my daily walk, what does it mean to believe in God and Jesus? For me this gets a lot more intense. What should I expect they will do for me that I cannot do for myself? What should I ask them to do for me? To what extent do I admit incapacity? It is easy to say, "I dare not take one step alone," but do I really mean it? What about daily bread? What about wisdom in the moment? What about taking no purse for the journey? What about the next person to whom God wants me to teach the gospel? What are the layers of trust I should have to lead a life of walking by faith?



Faith is not the power of positive thinking; it is believing in God and trusting that His will is always best even when you cannot understand why.
Shari Howerton, Breaking the Chains

Reflection and Discussion



Why is it important that I believe in the right object of faith?

How do you distinguish faith from Positive Mental Attitude (PMA)?

Is the “rush” of faith more or less powerful than the “rush” of PMA?

Is PMA about “I can” and Faith about “I can’t”?

Memory Verse: Ephesians 3:20

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us...”